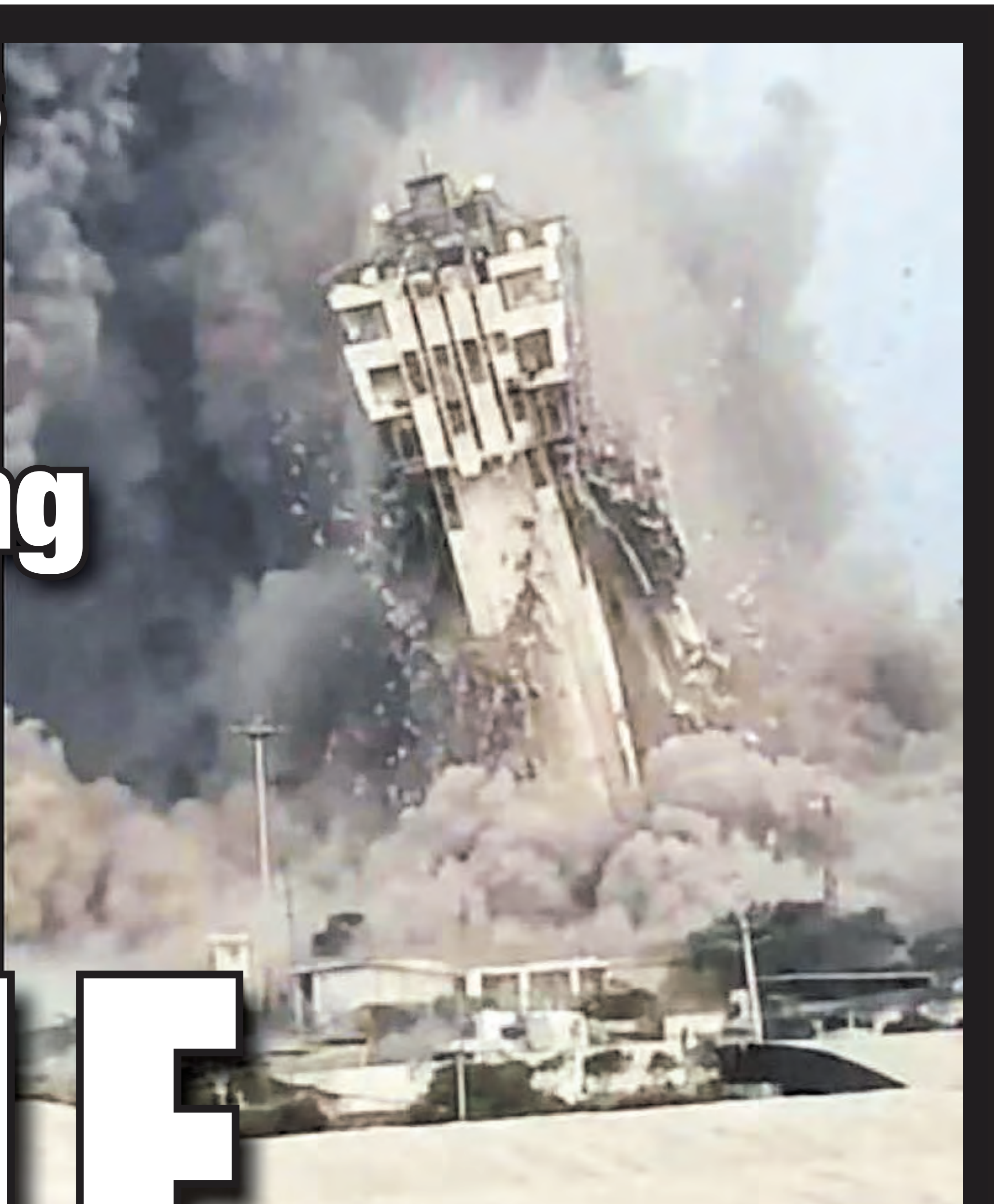
NEW YORK POST

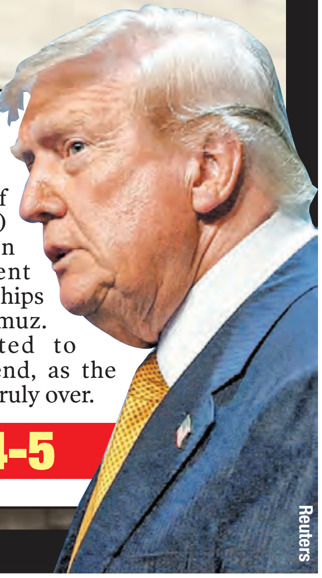
Page Six®

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026 / Humid, heavy t-storm, 79° / Weather: P. 26 ★★ LATE CITY FINAL nypost.com $2.00

Trump strikes back hard to stop Iran's strait meddling

THE STIFLE TOWER





Reuters

US airstrikes toppled a surveillance tower in Iran's southernmost city of Chabahar (above) yesterday, part of an operation to prevent Tehran from striking ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Strikes are expected to continue this weekend, as the cease-fire is well and truly over.

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NUDE DUDE HANGS OUT

Just latest 'tail' in the Naked City

By XAVIER SERRANO
and MATT TROUTMAN

What a bum!

A buck-naked drifter aimlessly wandered around Times Square, drawing befuddled gasps from tourists and commuters heading to work Friday morning.

Video exclusively shot by The Post shows the apparently strung-out man wearing nothing but his birthday suit and a blank look on his face along West 42nd Street at The Crossroads of the World.

The nude excursion was even too much for the Naked Cowboy, the iconic Times Square street performer who — despite his moniker — wears shame-shielding skivvies in addition to his cowboy hat and guitar get-up.

"Not a good idea," he said, explaining he learned about his unclothed unwitting competitor from a passerby.

The zonked-out nudist — who sported a tan line indicating he once wore since-misplaced shorts — ambled barefoot down a pedestrian plaza before sauntering in a circle back toward 42nd Street.

Pushy butthead

At one point, the unclad tramp squeezed himself — and his pearly white butt cheeks — between two shocked pedestrians.

Two Post journalists who spotted the denuded drifter told a cop about the balls-of-steel flaunting of societal norms through the most heavily trafficked part of New York City.

An NYPD rep said the department didn't yet have information on any arrest Friday afternoon.

Times Square visitors and peddlers were universally amused and bemused over the naked-but-not-afraid escapade.

"Live your life, man," said Kai, 18. "You only live once."

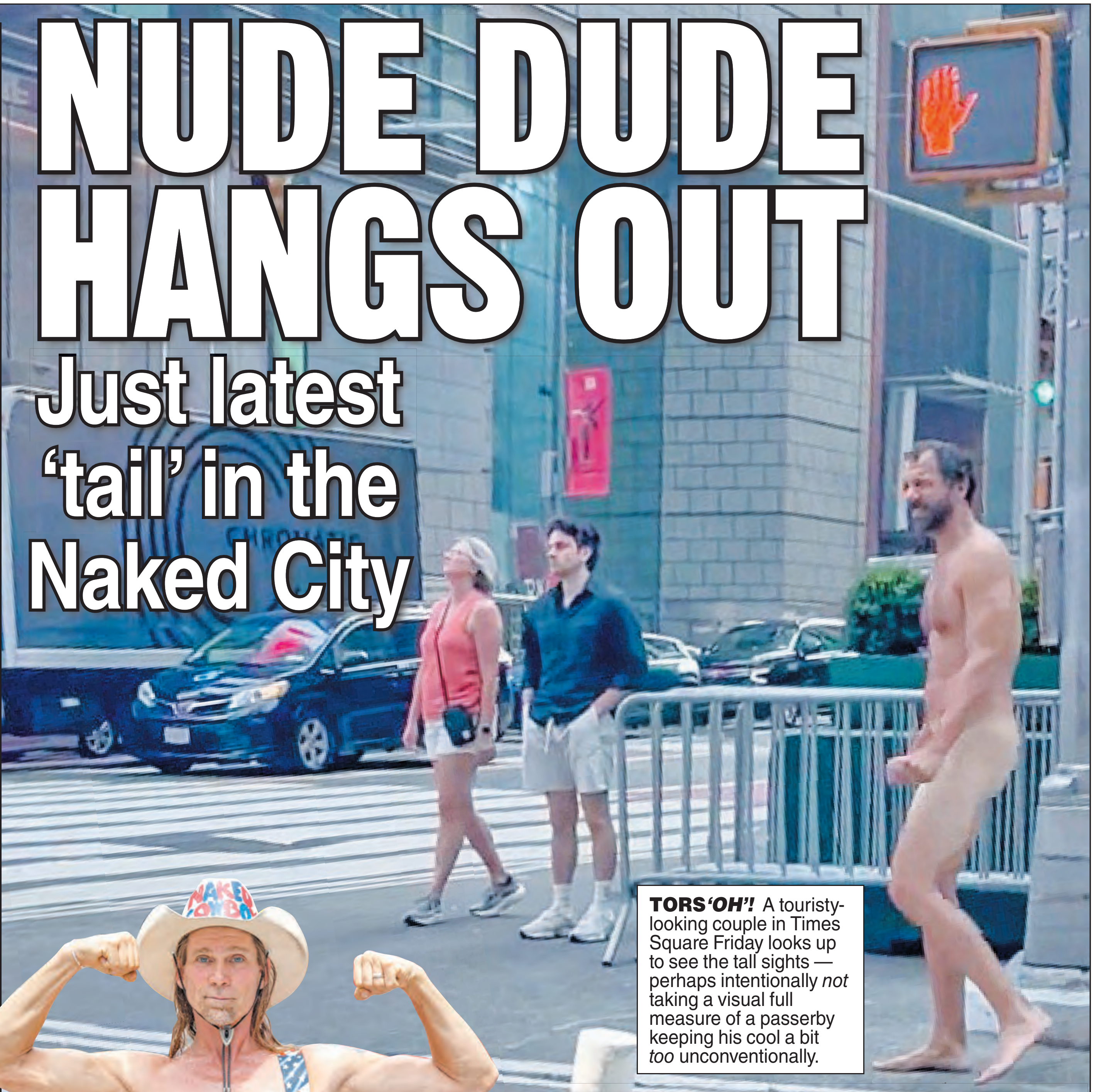
Brock, 21, who sat with a friend on a Times Square bench, reacted with pure disbelief after learning about the stripped-bare sojourner.

"Nah, you talking about the dude playing the guitar?" he said, before being told it was another libertine. "I ain't seen that. I'm glad I didn't see that."

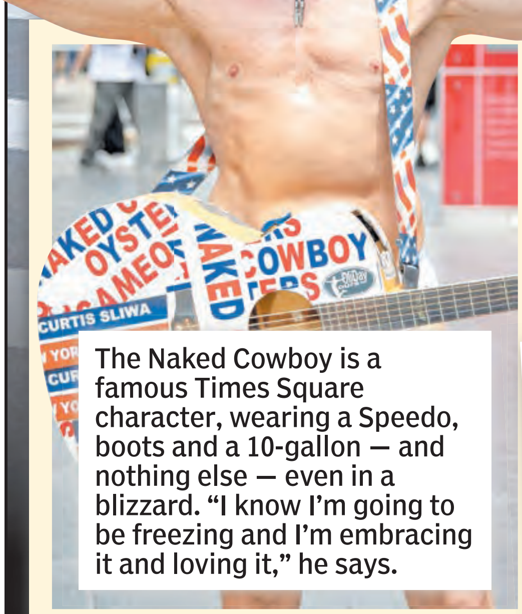
Ty, 31, enjoying the weather outside an American Eagle store, speculated the man had some chemical inspiration to go *au naturel* in the 85-degree heat.

"It's too hot to be walking around butterball naked in the middle of the summertime," he said. "Damn. Don't do drugs. And if you *do* do them, be responsible."

A woman handing out cards for a gun rental biz smiled at this different type of gunslinger and said "this f--king city is amazing."



TORS'*OH*'! A touristy-looking couple in Times Square Friday looks up to see the tall sights — perhaps intentionally *not* taking a visual full measure of a passerby keeping his cool a bit *too* unconventionally.



The Naked Cowboy is a famous Times Square character, wearing a Speedo, boots and a 10-gallon — and nothing else — even in a blizzard. "I know I'm going to be freezing and I'm embracing it and loving it," he says.

Baring the cheeky history of Times Sq.

Male model Krit McClean, 21, said he was in the midst of a "manic episode" when he stripped down and climbed the TKTS steps fully nude in July 2016.

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LATE CITY FINAL
Naked model's peep show
BALL DROP IN TIMES SQUARE

"Desnuda" performers wearing only bodypaint invaded Times Square in 2013 to fleece tourists and court controversy.

Olga Ginzburg/ NYP; Brigitte Stelzer
Kate Sheehy / NY Post

US airstrikes pound south

By SAMUEL CHAMBERLAIN
and CAITLIN DOORNBOS

American forces sought to cut off the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas on Friday, striking road and rail bridges on the seventh consecutive day of US strikes on Iran to ease Tehran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz.

The airstrikes dramatically toppled a large, white surveillance tower in Iran's southernmost city of Chabahar, located on a key trade route for landlocked, neighboring Afghanistan.

The escalation of the weeklong military campaign underscored President Trump's assessment that the cease-fire deal he signed with Iran a month ago is effectively dead.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said the structure was part of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' "maritime surveillance network along Iran's Gulf of Oman coastline used for decades" by the regime's militant arm "to track and target commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz."

"The destruction of the tower directly degrades IRGC's ability to coordinate attacks on innocent civilian crew members," the Tampa, Fla.-based combat command added on X. "Furthermore, the strike protects freedom of navigation in regional waters for all vessels, except for ships attempting to violate the ongoing US naval blockade against Iran."

'Winning big'

The US restarted the war last week after Tehran fired on three commercial ships and failed to open the strait as required by the US-Iran memorandum of understanding and cease-fire.

The first round of airstrikes concluded shortly after Trump claimed in a prime-time address to the nation that the US was "winning big in Iran, and you will see the fruits of that labor very, very shortly."

CENTCOM launched another round hours later.

The military offensive comes after Trump ended Washington's cease-fire with Tehran, saying he considered the long-awaited but short-lived MOU to reopen the strait and end hostilities "over."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has asked us to continue 'talks,'" he said July 10. "We have agreed to do so, but the United States has stated to them, in no uncertain terms, that the Cease Fire is OVER!"

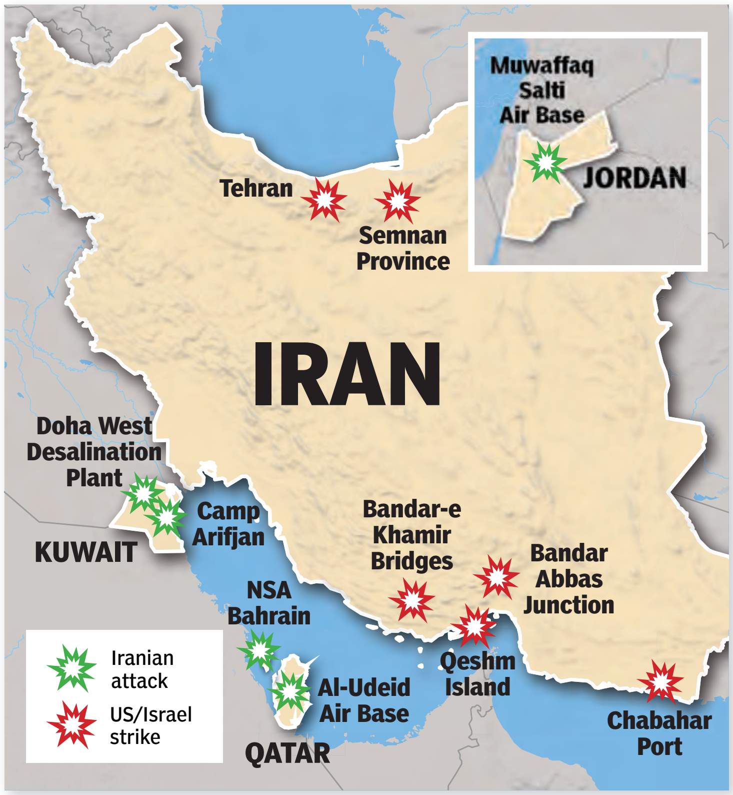
Tensions boiled after negotiations broke down Saturday and the US started its latest bombing campaign on Iran.

After the US and Israel launched Operation Epic Fury on Feb. 28, Tehran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz to shipping traffic, a move that sent the price of oil soaring and gave Iran major leverage in negotiations.

As crossings through the strait hit a three-week low, according to an international shipping tracker, the price of Brent crude oil rose above $86 a barrel, close to its highest level in a month.

The attacks in Iran's southern Hormozgan province struck at least six bridges and killed at least eight people, Iranian state television reported, bringing the total number of claimed casualties in the latest fighting to at least 39 dead and more than 400 wounded, according to Tehran's Health Ministry.

While other routes to and from Bandar Abbas still are open, the US strikes could expand further, potentially disrupting both the movement of military materiel and goods for Iran's 90



The focus of US strikes from air and sea on Iran was mostly in the southern part of the country, including hitting bridges to disrupt logistics.

IRGC hits Kuwait

Iranian missile and drone attacks struck a power and water desalination plant in Kuwait Friday, damaging a key source of drinking water in the tiny desert nation.

Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy confirmed the strike had started a fire and damaged several power-generation units. The ministry added that the fire had been contained and repairs to the damaged equipment were underway.

About 90% of Kuwait's drinking water comes from desalination, in which salt is removed from seawater — typically by pushing it through ultrafine membranes in a process known as reverse osmosis.

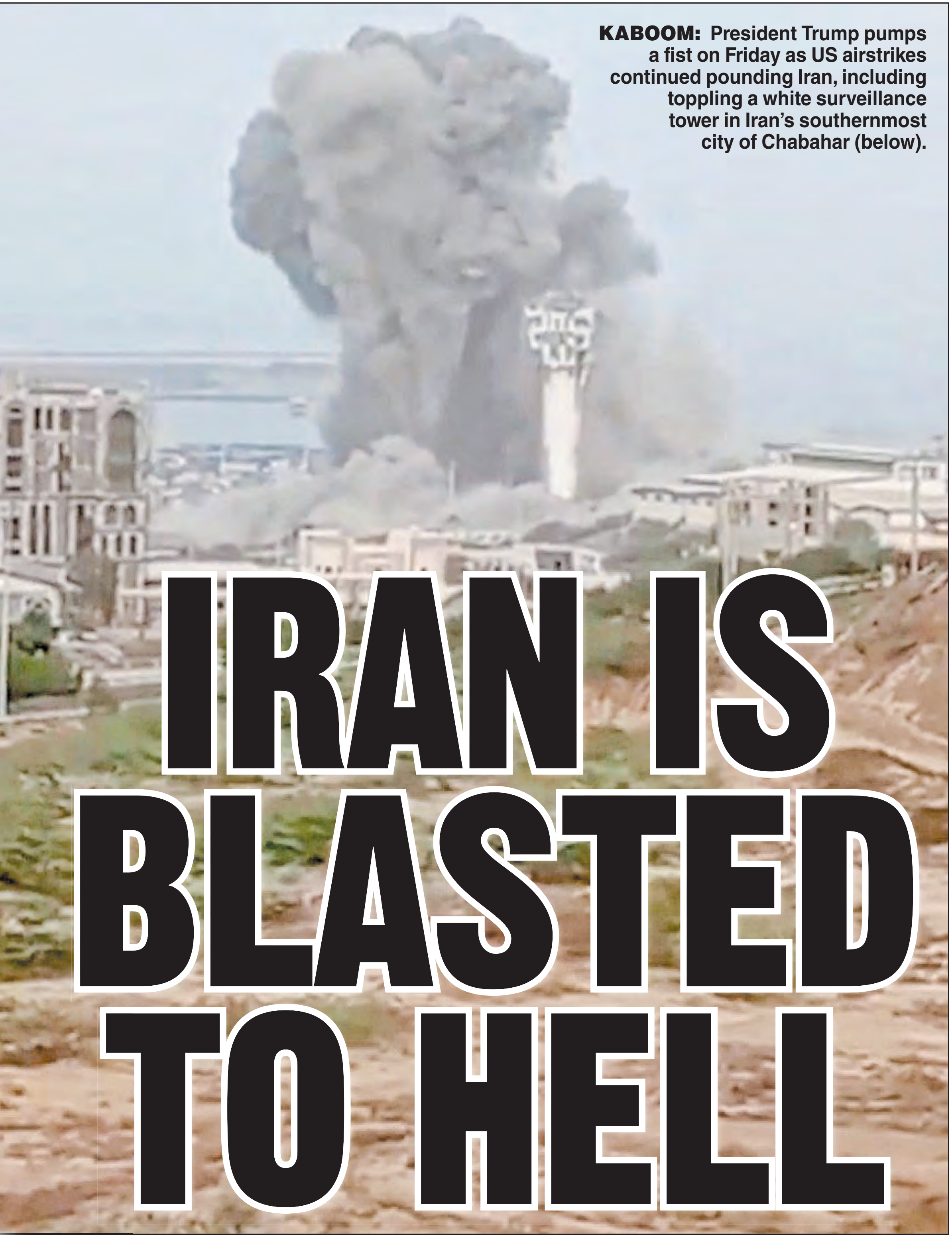
Approximately 86% of nearby Oman's potable water and 70% of Saudi Arabia's drinking water comes from the same process.

Hundreds of desalination plants sit along the Persian Gulf coast, putting systems that supply water to millions within range of Iranian missile or drone strikes. Many desalination plants are in the same facilities as power stations, meaning attacks on electrical infrastructure could also hinder water production. Any strike that knocks desalination plants offline can lead to major cities in the region losing access to fresh water within days.

There were no immediate reports of deaths caused by Iranian attacks.

Samuel Chamberlain, Wires

# of country to loosen strait strangle



IRAN IS BLASTED TO HELL

KABOOM: President Trump pumps a fist on Friday as US airstrikes continued pounding Iran, including toppling a white surveillance tower in Iran's southernmost city of Chabahar (below).

Social Media via Reuters

million people.

Chabahar port, which Iran had been running with support from India, has been a repeated target of American airstrikes.

Iran has said the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas once passed in peacetime, must be under its sole control and that vessels should pay fees to Tehran — even though the world for decades has considered it an international waterway.

Trump has threatened in recent days to target Iranian power stations and bridges while reimposing a naval blockade to halt Tehran's shipments of crude oil. He also vowed to begin striking Iranian oil and energy infrastructure next week if Iran still refuses to come to the negotiating table.

A White House spokesperson said the US "carried out strikes exclusively on military targets, including military-logistics infrastructure," according to the BBC.

US forces have also redirected three commercial vessels trying to run the blockade, disabled one that did not comply and boarded another "to ensure full compliance," CENTCOM said on X.

Crossings through the strait fell to a three-week low of just eight vessels on Thursday, according to MarineTraffic.com, which said seven of the vessels used a route operated by Iran and none used the route closest to Oman preferred by the US.

Given the risks, some oil shippers are transiting the strait with their location devices turned off, but many are just staying put, Lloyd's List Intelligence said Thursday. *With Wires*

Tehran says turn off A/C

Power-grid conserve

By SAMUEL CHAMBERLAIN and CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Sweltering Iranians were warned by their rulers Friday to shut off their air conditioners during peak hours as the regime claimed the country's power grid came under strain from US attacks.

Tehran's Ministry of Energy said in a statement that shut-offs were necessary "to help ensure a stable electricity supply in the southern provinces, which are currently facing extreme heat and attacks on electricity supply facilities."

The statement did not specify whether power plants, transmission lines or other equipment had been attacked.

CENTCOM declined to say whether the US military hit Iranian power plants or other energy targets, but a White House official denied to the BBC that any civilian infrastructure was struck.

'Military targets'

"[US forces] carried out strikes exclusively on military targets, including military logistics infrastructure," the person said.

Temperatures in the Iranian capital hit triple digits on Friday with highs of 102 degrees Fahrenheit expected on both Saturday and Sunday.

In the port of Bandar Abbas, focus of the latest American bombing campaign, temperatures were predicted to hover in the high-90s and top out at 105 on Sunday.

President Trump on Wednesday pledged to begin bombing Iranian energy infrastructure next week if Tehran continues resisting US demands.

'Next week' warning

"Next week it gets really bad for them," Trump told Fox News. "We're going to knock out all their power plants. We're going to knock out all their bridges unless they get to the table and negotiate."

Foundation for Defense of Democracies' Iran program director, Behnam Ben Taleblu, told The Post that Tehran — not the US — is responsible for the crisis, and it's not the first time they've ordered their citizens to go without A/C.

"They are saying that now and have said before. They try to get people to conserve when the government doesn't. They will have a combination environmental and economic crisis anyway, since those were unresolved things from pre-January protests," he added, referring to the widespread protests in Iran this year against the regime. *With Wires*

UFT 'budget buster'

Boss in council side deal

By CRAIG McCARTHY
and MATT TROUTMAN

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PALS: Union boss Michael Mulgrew (left) urged Council Speaker Julie Menin (right) to pass raises for teachers' aides, sources said.

Instagram/ Julie Menin

Powerful United Federation of Teachers union boss Michael Mulgrew was the driving force behind the City Council's controversial move to give teaching assistants $10,000 raises — on top of a bloated education budget, sources revealed Friday.

Mulgrew pushed council allies, including Speaker Julie Menin, to pass a bill with the pay bump that bypassed union contract negotiations, according to three sources with knowledge of the situation.

But many critics worry the end-run around the collective bargaining process could open the floodgates for other budget-busting union asks.

"It's a bad idea and a bad precedent," said Nicole Gelinas, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a prominent conservative think tank.

"Are we going do this with all unions who can't get a deal?"

Sources said Mulgrew dropped the ball for years on paraprofessional pay during collective bargaining, leading him and his council cronies to craft a workaround after he faced a stiff leadership challenge last year.

Battle at the top

It means more funding for public schools, on top of the whopping $38.6 billion budgeted for the Department of Education, the most of any city agency.

The final bill unanimously approved by the council Thursday also dovetailed with what insiders said was Menin's desire to score political points against Mayor Mamdani, whom sources believe she plans to challenge in the 2029 Democratic mayoral primary.

"Even though the council is positioning itself as more moderate, it wants to spend more than the mayor," Gelinas said.

Mamdani supported the raises during his 2025 mayoral campaign, but changed his tune once in office. He raised concerns Thursday that the pay bumps should've been negotiated in collective bargaining.

Now, all eyes are on whether Mamdani will sign the bill into law or opt for politically bruising veto fight. He has 30 days to either sign or veto it, or let it go into effect without taking any action.

"The mayor is kind of in a box now," one source said. "Does he veto and enter into extensive litigation?

"If you don't veto it you'd better stand back from the flood of unions who are going to be running to the council. If they don't fight it, who needs a union?"

Battle at the top

Paraprofessionals' skimpy $32,000-a-year base pay became a hot-button issue last year, with Mulgrew rallying on City Hall's steps to support a bill to raise it by $10,000.

Sources said the bill was introduced to give Mulgrew an opportunity to show he would fight for the teaching assistants as he faced a bitter leadership challenge from his former ally Amy Arundell. Mulgrew this year again didn't secure the pay bumps as the union won up to $9,500 raises for teachers affected by a delay in New York's class size mandate.

A City Hall spokesperson on Friday reiterated Mamdani's position that the pay raises were best resolved through collective bargaining. The spokesperson contended the council's bill directly violates the state's collective bargaining law.

Gotti give his ma his kidney

John Gotti's grandson Friday scored a two-month delay on his surrender date to serve a 15-month stint in lockup for a million-dollar COVID scam — so long as he donates a kidney to his ailing mom, Victoria Gotti.

Carmine Agnello, 39, was set to land behind bars Monday after pleading guilty in 2024 to swiping $1.1 million in relief funds earmarked for struggling businesses and using the cash to invest in cryptocurrency.

But the Teflon Don's grandson can instead report to the pokey Sept. 18 if he undergoes the transplant procedure as scheduled Aug. 3 to try to save his mother, said Judge Nusrat Choudhury.

"Please convey to Mr. Agnello and his mother that I hope they have a successful procedure," the judge said during a virtual telephone conference in the Brooklyn federal court case.

If Agnello does not go through with the surgery, he's due in prison by Aug. 10, the judge ruled.

The con brought up his 63-year-old mother's end-stage renal disease months ago as he lobbied in vain to get a no-jail sweetheart deal.

Victoria Gotti, John Gotti's daughter wrote to the judge in advance of her son's April sentencing hearing, "He is giving me the GIFT OF LIFE."

Federal prosecutors with the Brooklyn US Attorney's Office repeatedly countered that Agnello could give up the kidney behind bars and that the situation did not warrant a break on prison time. *Ben Kochman*

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Fri.: **295**
■ Midday Win-4 Fri.: **3833**
■ Midday Take-5 Fri.: **7, 11, 16, 21, 24**
■ Evening Nos. Fri.: **419**
■ Evening Win-4 Fri.: **6285**
■ Evening Take-5 Fri.: **9, 11, 13, 19, 20**
■ Pick-10 Fri.: **1, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 20, 28, 31, 42, 44, 48, 53, 57, 61, 69, 70, 71, 77, 78**
■ Millionaire for Life Fri.: **3, 19, 38, 48, 58**; MB: **1**
■ Mega Millions Fri.: **22, 34, 45, 48, 55**; Mega Ball: **14**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Fri.: **975;** Fireball: **0**
■ Pick-4 Fri.: **5118;** Fireball: **0**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: **12, 16, 24, 40, 45**; Xtra: **3**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Fri.: **447;** Wild: **9**
■ Play-4 Fri.: **0550;** Wild: **3**
■ Cash-5 Fri.: **4, 9, 16, 23, 26**

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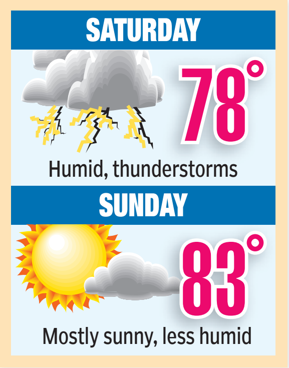


Rainy flush-out is due

Toxin-riddled "dirty rain" will pour on the Big Apple on Saturday — but at least it will be quick and flush out the unhealthy haze that wafted in from the Canadian wildfires, experts say.

"There's a lot of smoke and particulate matter in the air, so as we get rainfall, those water droplets are going to pick up some soot, some ash, and bring that to the ground," AccuWeather's Senior Meteorologist John Feerick told The Post on Friday.

"At least initially, you're probably gonna have a little bit of dirty spots or soot on cars and stuff like that.

"But it's going to be relatively short-lived," he said.

Feerick said the dirty rain is actually less concerning than the intensity of the summer storm initially bringing it to the area.

Thunderstorms and damaging winds are forecast till Saturday night — with some gusts reaching as high as 65 mph. *Katherine Donlevy*

BMW rams kid, flees

A hit-and-run BMW rammed into a 6-year-old boy crossing a Brooklyn street with a parent late Thursday, cops said.

The boy was crossing Euclid Avenue near Linden Boulevard in East New York with the adult around 10:40 p.m. when the motorist struck him, authorities said.

The unidentified person behind the wheel then sped off, police said.

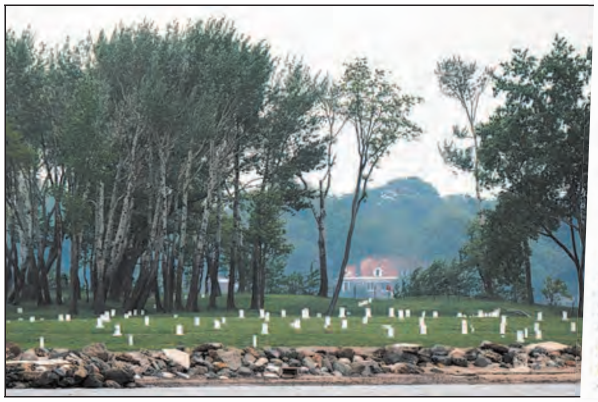
The youngster was taken to Maimonides Medical Center where he was listed in stable condition, cops said. *Amanda Woods*

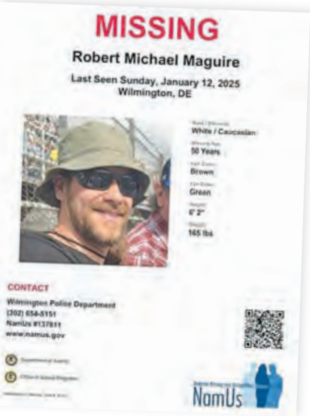
'Typo put deceased in pauper's grave'

BURIED BY 'MISTAKE'

Facebook/Kathy Troutman

BODY LOST IN TRANSLATION: After he died, Robert Maguire's name was misspelled at Mt. Sinai West, so he was buried without his family knowing or consenting, a lawsuit alleges.





MISSING

Robert Michael Maguire

Last Seen Sunday, January 12, 2025
Wilmington, DE

White / Caucasian
50 Years
Brown
Green
6' 2"
145 lbs

CONTACT
Wilmington Police Department
(302) 654-5151
NamUs #137811
www.namus.gov

By PETER SENZAMICI

They made a grave error.

A desperate woman spent more than a year searching for her missing brother who vanished in NYC — only to find out he had died and was buried in a pauper's grave because "careless" hospital workers misspelled his name by one wrong letter, according to a lawsuit.

Staff at Manhattan's Mt. Sinai West hospital bungled the spelling of 50-year-old Robert Maguire's name on official paperwork, the suit alleges.

According to city records, the letter "g" was changed to a "q," wrongly rendering it on the documents as "Maquire."

Because of the small but consequential error, the filing claims no family was able to be found for the 50-year-old, down-on-his-luck welder after he went missing during a brief 2025 layover at Midtown's Port Authority Bus Terminal while on a trip to Pennsylvania.

With no next of kin, the city treated Maguire as an unclaimed "John Doe" and kept his body in a cold morgue for months before burying him on Hart Island that May — all without his family's knowledge or consent, the suit says.

"Due to the defendants' failures to search or failure to search properly and misspelling the decedent's last name, the decedent was instead caused to be buried on Hart Island," the suit alleges.

After Maguire went missing, his desperate family searched relentlessly for him, but because of the paperwork spelling error, their searches turned up empty, the suit claims.

That means the family never knew that after arriving at Port Authority during his NYC layover, he fell ill and was admitted to Mt. Sinai West on January 13, 2025 — where he died two days later, according to the lawsuit.

'He disappeared'

When he was admitted, he was carrying proper ID, and the hospital correctly recorded his date of birth — but at some point staff took his name down wrong, the family claims.

According to the city's Hart Island lookup tool, he was registered as "Maquire."

The simple mistake left his family — including sister Kathy Troutman who filed the lawsuit this week — living a yearlong nightmare.

Troutman said in an interview with the missing persons podcast "The Vanished" that her brother had been traveling from his home in Wilmington, Del., to see a cousin in Pennsylvania when the family lost track of him.

"Bobby never made it to my cousin," Troutman said. "He just disappeared."

They filed a missing persons report after he vanished — and endlessly called the NYPD, Port Authority and the Medical Examiner's office.

The distraught family begged authorities to look for Maguire, who has a highly recognizable, heavily bandaged right arm — the result of a horrific, bone-deep dog bite.

"That's why we've called the medical examiner's office several times," Troutman said in her podcast interview. "Do you have this person with a terrible arm injury?"

But because of the clerical error, the family was repeatedly told no such person existed, according to the suit.

It wasn't clear exactly how the mistake was discovered or how Maguire's body was found by his family. Troutman's attorney declined to comment.

Meanwhile, the lawsuit claims the city still hasn't returned Maguire's body to his family.

Diarrhea-stricken eaters: Lettuce sue

BAJA BLASTED: Taco Bell, which gets its shredded iceberg lettuce from Taylor Farms (below), is already facing lawsuits from victims of the recent nationwide cyclospora outbreak.

Reuters; Getty Images

TACO BELL
Drive Thru

Bathroom first, then courtroom

By ARIEL ZILBER
and LISA FICKENSCHER

An Ohio man and a Michigan couple who recently ate at Taco Bell are among the first victims to sue over the cyclospora outbreak that has sickened thousands and caused explosive diarrhea.

The Ohio man allegedly got sick after three June meals at the eatery, while the Michiganders said they became ill the same month from lettuce at the fast-food joint — the ingredient blamed for about 90% of cases of Michigan Taco Bell customers getting sick, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

The lawsuits came as the chain said it was voluntarily removing “potentially impacted lettuce from a supplier in select states.”

Taylor Farms, identified by the Washington Post as the provider of the contaminated produce, said it was recalling iceberg lettuce sourced from Mexico at the FDA’s behest.

Some 1,645 lab-confirmed cases of cyclosporiasis have been reported in 34 states since May 1, with Michigan hit the hardest, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Along with it and Ohio, the CDC has urged customers to shun lettuce at Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia Taco Bells in particular.

At least 141 people have been hospitalized, with no deaths reported, authorities said.

Just tip of the *iceberg*

Cyclosporiasis comes from a microscopic parasite found in contaminated food and water. The CDC says cases tend to spike in the spring and summer. While there’s no vaccine, an infection can be treated with antibiotics.

California-based Taylor Farms’ produce is sold at Target, Whole Foods, Walmart and Amazon Fresh, according to its website, among other stores — though there has been no indication any of the allegedly tainted shredded iceberg lettuce believed to be connected to the outbreak made it to those retailers.

The company said that, “No Taylor Farms branded salads or kits are associated with this outbreak. No Taylor Farms branded salad kits contain iceberg lettuce.”

Mohammed Ayyad, a regular customer at a Taco Bell in North Olmsted, Ohio, said his troubles began with orders of Cheesy Fiesta Potatoes and Avocado Ranch Chicken Stackers he scarfed down over three visits in mid-June.

Days later, he developed a “severe” headache, chills, vomiting and persistent diarrhea that became so debilitating, he was unable to sleep, according to a complaint filed Thursday in Ohio federal court.

Ayyad’s attorney Bill Marler told The Post he plans to amend the complaint to add Salinas, Calif.-based Taylor Farms. More cases are in the works, he indicated.

“We have been contacted by more than 30 people and 90% of them ate at Taco Bell,” Marler told The Post.

Extra caution

The number of confirmed cases is expected to rise, with the feds saying they are reviewing over 5,100 additional reports to determine whether they are cyclosporiasis.

New York State saw 511 cyclosporiasis cases between May 1 and July 10, according to local health officials.

Cyclosporiasis can cause severe, watery diarrhea, nausea, fatigue, bloating, loss of appetite and weight loss.

Symptoms generally develop between two and 14 days after exposure, often making it difficult for investigators to identify a common source before contaminated products have been consumed or discarded.

Without treatment, symptoms can persist for weeks and may recur after patients initially appear to recover.

Health officials urged extra caution when readying fresh food that could be contaminated.

“If you can peel it, peel it. If you can cook it, cook it,” Natasha Bagdasarian, the state of Michigan’s chief medical executive, told Bloomberg News.

Burning loss for church

Any hopes of salvaging artifacts of a landmarked Brooklyn church destroyed by a possible firebug have been torched, according to activists.

The few remnants of the South Bushwick Reformed Church that may have survived the June blaze have been bulldozed by demolition crews in what locals called a “tragic and stressful” situation.

“[We were] trying to preserve things like the cornerstone or the steel supports with the Corinthian tops that were inside the church on either side, but any of those architectural elements unfortunately were swept away with the demolition,” Dina Alfano, cofounder of the Bushwick Historic Preservation Association, told The Post.

“Unfortunately, none of them were kept.”

The discovery is heartbreaking for the BHPA, which had been asking for weeks that the city Department of Buildings pause demolition long enough for the group to salvage the 19th-century church’s historic artifacts.

But they discovered the workers had demolished everything other than Fellowship Hall, a 19th-century Greek Revival addition to the church. *Xavier Serrano*

What he’ll doo for Dew

The wacko who had to be cut out of a porta-potty toilet bowl by Kansas City firefighters in a viral video had been trapped inside the john for eight hours after crawling into the waste holding tank to retrieve his fallen soda bottle.

The man said he had gone fishing in the portable toilet for his fallen Mountain Dew, according to a representative for Patriot Portable Restrooms, which provided the porta-johns for a World Cup event.

The fire department used saws to cut the potty hostage out of the plastic tank and then hosed him down with water. *Daniel Cody*

‘LOOKING FOR ROKER’

Kook sought anchor Al on ‘Today’ set: DA

By KYLE SCHNITZER,
JOE MARINO
and AMANDA WOODS

WACK JOB: Andrew Truelove (also right, sleeping in a Torrance, Calif., alley in 2023) was arrested (above) Thursday for allegedly storming NBC’s “Today” show set in search of longtime anchor Al Roker (far left).

Los Angeles Times via Getty Images; Kevin C. Downs & Robert Miller for NY Post

The nutjob who allegedly stormed NBC’s “Today” show set demanded to know where longtime anchor Al Roker was — before hurling a racial slur at host Craig Melvin, a Manhattan court heard.

“Where is Roker?” Andrew Truelove, 41, allegedly shouted just before calling Melvin the N-word, according to prosecutors and law enforcement sources.

Truelove — who has racked up several arrests dating back more than a decade — is accused of slipping past security into an unauthorized area near Studio 1A at 30 Rock around 9 a.m. Thursday.

He was held on $10,000 bail by Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Jeffrey Gershuny — who also issued a protective order barring the lunatic from getting anywhere near the “Today” hosts.

Racial slurs

Truelove allegedly followed a staffer who used their ID badge to get into the “employee’s only area” from the lobby, according to Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Millicent Kastenbaum.

The intruder then got to the bottom of a stairwell inside the employee’s only area — where he came face-to-face with Melvin, according to prosecutors and the sources.

Truelove then called out Melvin by name, demanding to know Roker’s whereabouts — before taking a few steps toward the host and berating him with a racial slur, according to the criminal complaint and sources.

When confronted by Melvin, who asked him if that was what he wanted to get arrested for, Truelove allegedly told him, “I always wanted to call a black famous person the N-word.”

Truelove has at least eight prior arrests in New York City, most of them for criminal mischief, dating back to July 2025, for allegedly damaging property, according to police and law enforcement sources.

He was most recently sentenced June 18 to time served and probation for the six months he spent behind bars on a criminal mischief rap. He had pleaded guilty in that case.

Sources also confirmed Truelove’s criminal history out of state — including a 2012 arrest in Virginia for stealing signs from two playgrounds honoring the victims of the Sandy Hook mass shooting. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison in that case, according to a local report.

Sandy Hook ‘truther’

Virginia police said they suspected Truelove was part of a group of “truthers” who believed conspiracy theories that the Connecticut massacre — which left 20 children and six adults dead — was fake, NBC News reported at the time.

He was previously sentenced to four years in prison for abduction when he went to a Virginia high school with a lug wrench in 2007 and grabbed an 8-year-old girl by the straps of her backpack, The Virginian-Pilot reported back then.

A psychiatrist at the time testified that Truelove suffered from bipolar disorder, including symptoms of depression and hallucinations, according to the report.

Truelove was arraigned late Thursday on charges of burglary in the third degree as a hate crime and menacing in the third degree as a hate crime for the “Today” incident.

He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted on the top charge.

The alleged bigot was being held at Rikers Island as of Friday, court records show.

His attorney, Lawrence Gerzog, did not return a request for comment.

Truelove is due back in court on July 22.

Truancy rap vs. ‘feral’ ma

The mom of 16 “almost feral” kids rescued from a feces-filled home was previously charged after six of her children failed to show up for school, according to court documents.

Elizabeth Siders and her husband Gary Siders Jr. were slapped with truancy charges in October 2021, per court documents seen by the Columbus Dispatch.

They were accused of not sending six of their children — between 7 and 13 at the time — to Addaville Elementary School in Gallipolis, a five-minute drive from where they lived at the time.

The children were defined as habitually truant because they had been “absent from school without legitimate excuse for the entire 2021-22 academic year to present” — missing around 72 school hours — the documents stated.

The case was dismissed in January 2022. Gary refused to comment on the charges.

Chris Bradford

‘Teacher of Year’ sex bust

A former Teacher of the Year recently promoted to assistant principal has been busted for allegedly having sex with a student.

Olivia Marie Smith was arrested and charged Thursday — a month after cops received a tip-off that she allegedly engaged in the perverted behavior while employed at Ocean Springs MS in Mississippi, the Sun Herald reported, without saying how old the child was.

Smith won a teacher of the year award there in 2022 — and was recently promoted to be an assistant principal at nearby Oak Park Elementary School, the outlet said.

She was charged with sexual battery — an offense that carries a sentence of up to 30 years in prison in Mississippi given her position of authority.

She was also charged with enticement of a child to meet for sexual purposes, the report said, without further details. *Chris Bradford*

ISAAC SCHORR

‘Kav’ing it both ways

Hon. Brett M. Kavanaugh

Getty Images

SELECTIVE JUDGMENT: The same Democrats who ostensibly believed the 2018 smears against Brett Kavanaugh (above) refused to deem Graham Platner’s accuser Lyndsey Fifield (together below) credible.

Dems are Plat-out phonies

DEMOCRATS have come a long way from “Believe all women.”

Or have they?

In a September 2018 hearing throwdown that would prove among the most memorable in American history, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) grilled soon-to-be Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh about his high school yearbook.

Of particular interest to Whitehouse: teenage references to flatulence, drinking games and a friend’s enunciation of his f-bombs.

The undignified interrogation was part of the whole-of-party effort to smear Kavanaugh as a rapist — and then a gang rapist — based on the word of Christine Blasey Ford and the preposterous, long-since-forgotten accounts of other unreliable accusers.

At the time, Whitehouse and the rest of his colleagues treated Ford’s word as gospel.

Never mind that the only friend she said would be able to provide contemporaneous corroboration of her accusation could not.

Or that said friend later revealed she was pressured into professing to believe Ford’s story.

Or that she ultimately landed on Team Kavanaugh.

Ugly double standard

Fast forward to last month, though, and Whitehouse was dismissing Lyndsey Fifield’s allegations of physical abuse against erstwhile Senate hopeful Graham Platner as “a lot of nothing” from “a woman who works for right-wing political operations.”

“Not impressed” was the phrasing he landed on to describe his reaction to them, even though Fifield furnished far more evidence for her claims than Ford ever mustered.

It was a charming sentiment out of any mouth, but it was especially enchanting emerging from that of a septuagenarian nepo baby blowhard.

Whitehouse had to withdraw his endorsement of Platner this month after another woman accused him of rape.

And when CNN’s Jake Tapper confronted the lawmaker over his treatment of Fifield on Tuesday, the beach-club bum stood by his comments.

It’s “important,” explained Whitehouse, “to evaluate whether there is corroboration, and with respect to the first allegation, there was none.”

True of Ford’s allegation against Kavanaugh, but not of that which Fifield leveled against Platner.

He went on to suggest Fifield had “motive to mislead or fabricate” because she was part of a “Koch brothers-funded political operation.”

His disgraceful double-down was a far cry from the “guilty until proven innocent” standard he had helped popularize.

This small man from the smallest state in the union isn’t the only hypocrite in his caucus.

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) called Ford “extremely credible,” and declared that Kavanaugh enjoyed “no presumption of innocence” back in 2018.

Still, he extended that presumption to Platner during a June press conference in which he ignored five straight questions about Fifield by repeating some variation of the canned line: “I endorsed Graham Platner. We’re going to beat Susan Collins and take back the Senate.”

Poorly aged words

If Schumer was storing milk like wine on a rack in his basement, it would have aged better.

Speaking of ungraceful aging, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) doubtless wishes she could take back her declaration that Platner was her “kind of man.”

And her post-Fifield accusation plea that he be judged — euphemism alert — “not for the worst things he did in the darkest part of his life.”

Warren’s weak-tea excuses rang all the more hollow in light of her comportment during the Kavanaugh affair.

“I believe Dr. Ford,” said Warren at the time.

A year later, she was still wasting her breath calling for Kavanaugh’s impeachment.

Yet this summer, she held her hands over her ears as Fifield spoke much more convincingly about Platner’s misdeeds.

It would be welcome news if Democrats have really repented of the unjust Kavanaugh standard they once championed.

If any heinous accusation — regardless of whether there’s any evidence at all to support it — was to immediately be treated as cause enough to force public figures to step aside, it would mean the end of American politics, perhaps American life, as we know it.

The line had to be held against the left’s assault on the principles of due process and following the facts where they lead.

Cynicism backfired

On some level, it’s heartening to discover that they aren’t true believers in summary social and professional executions.

Or at least it would be, if it hadn’t been accompanied by the revelation that they’re ruthless cynics willing to do anything and everything for power.

That’s why they’ll amplify destructive smears against an accused innocent in one breath and in the next manufacture more against a truly credible accuser.

What’s actually heartening, though, is that in both instances their cynicism backfired.

Kavanaugh is an associate justice on the United States Supreme Court.

Platner is a make-believe oyster farmer who relies on his mommy’s charity for business.

When you stand for nothing but your own interests, people notice.

And all these years later, the crucible Democrats put Brett Kavanaugh through continues to burn them by reminding Americans of their ugly, self-serving priorities.

NEW YORK POST Page Six

LATE CITY FINAL

CAPITOL SWILL

Revealed: Third member of Democrat ‘Animal House’ had sex with two aides

Buddy Eric Swalwell resigned, other pal Jimmy Gomez had affair, under investigation

PAGES 4-5

‘Keep Hands off the Hill help’

The highest-ranking woman in the House of Representatives is calling for a “bright-line rule” prohibiting lawmakers from having sexual relationships with congressional staff after The Post revealed Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) slept with at least two aides to Texas Democrats.

Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.), chairwoman of the House Republican Caucus, told The Post that “Sen. Gallego’s relationships fall short of the standard the public expects from elected officials.”

“Congress should have a bright-line rule that members should not have romantic or sexual relationships with congressional staff,” the No. 4 House Republican said.

“Even if a relationship is consensual, there is an inherent power imbalance that can undermine trust and create an appearance of impropriety. The goal should be protecting staff and maintaining confidence in the institution,” she said.

“My standard is the same regardless of party or personality. Members of Congress should be held to a high ethical standard whether they have an ‘R’ or a ‘D’ next to their name.”

The House of Representatives approved a policy in 2018 — at the height of the #MeToo movement — banning its members from having relationships with their own employees — after four lawmakers resigned for alleged misconduct.

That policy does not explicitly bar relationships with staff from other offices and was not adopted by the Senate. *Steven Nelson*

Sunny talk to help son beat rap

"The View" co-host Sunny Hostin tried to talk cops out of issuing her Ivy League-educated son a trespassing citatoin — telling them he "has no criminal record" and repeatedly citing her legal background, according to police bodycam footage.

The TV personality and former federal prosecutor was on the phone with son, Gabriel Hostin, 24, when he was stopped by police for trespassing on Metro-North Railroad tracks in Westchester County last month.

"My name is Sunny Hostin and I'm one of the co-hosts of 'The View' and I'm a former federal prosecutor," the 57-year-old mom can be heard saying to the responding officers in the bodycam footage obtained by The Post.

"That's my son. He's a Harvard graduate, he doesn't have a criminal record," she said to another cop while on the phone.

The 2025 Harvard grad told cops he was out for a run and saw the gate near the tracks was open.

"He's not a kid who's ever in trouble. It's an innocent mistake," she pleads while acknowledging the violation.

Ultimately, the 24-year-old was slapped with a trespass summons for what can be an arrestable offense.

Ella Morrison

Bull *'Sharia'* flight assault

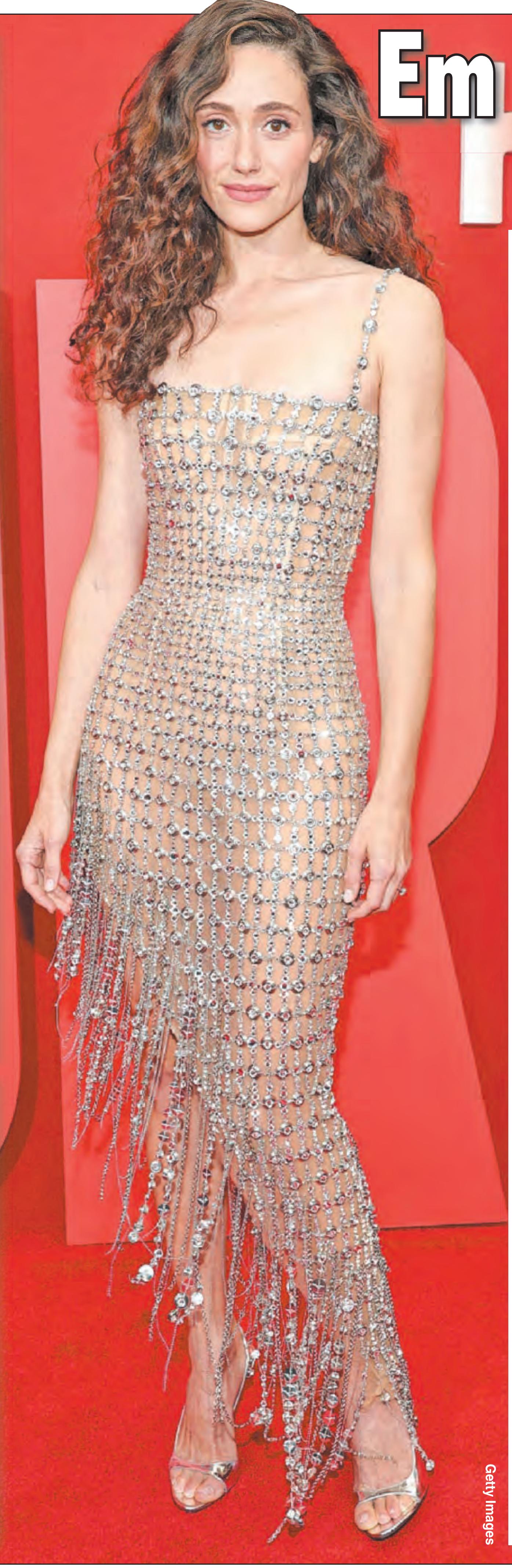
A plane passenger allegedly invoked Islam's strict Sharia law to avoid sitting next to a woman — then assaulted a female flight attendant who tried to smooth it out, according to reports.

The passenger — identified as a 29-year-old Turkish migrant living in Germany — was arrested when his June 1 flight landed in Dusseldorf, Bild reported Thursday.

"According to initial witness statements," a police spokesperson told Bild, the irate passenger punched or slapped the flight attendant.

Chris Bradford

Em a sheer delight


Getty Images

Her talent is "crystal" clear. Emily Rossum sparkles in a Monse sheer design featuring crystals at the premiere of her new Hulu crime thriller "Furious," in which she plays a rookie FBI agent.

'YANK'EE DOODLE PAY ME!

$7K for Scot's 'slur'

By NATALIE O'NEILL

Calling an American a "Yank" in the workplace in Scotland is "racial harassment" — and deserves a hefty payday, a court has ruled.

Raymond Joseph, a server in Aberdeen, was awarded nearly $7,000 after a co-worker called him a "f--king Yank" and told him to "go back to your country," the Times of London reported Thursday.

Joseph, from the US, was waiting tables at a Pizza Express in Scotland's third largest city in 2024 when he clashed with fellow waiter Michael Tortolano during a busy shift, the court heard.

"Why don't you just leave, nobody f--king likes you, f--king American, go back to your country, you f--king Yank," Tortolano said, according to the report.

Joseph allegedly fired back, "F--k off, bald loser," and called Tortolano an "incel," a derogatory term short for "involuntarily celibate."

Joseph told the court he was "hurt and humiliated" by the "Yank" comment, in part because it had happened in front of customers.

"Yank" is short for "Yankee" and can be considered a derogatory term for Americans.

The pizzeria's managers ended up firing Joseph after a disciplinary hearing found him guilty of gross misconduct involving multiple flare-ups with workers.

Joseph later sued Tortolano for harassment.

Tribunal Judge Melanie Sangster ruled the "Yank" slur "constituted harassment related to race."

The online masses — particularly Americans — appeared overwhelmingly against the judge's decision.

"What an absurd ruling when even we call each other Yanks," a commenter said on Reddit.

Another person wrote on X, "Gee, how will I ever survive if some Scot calls me a 'Yank?' Good grief, people are wimps."

Someone else tweeted, "That is stupid. No American finds being called a Yank racial, much less harassment. We are Yanks. So what."

Nazi jab rejected

Joseph also previously alleged that the restaurant's uniforms featured a Swastika design, but the judge rejected that claim.

The American worker had posted on a social-media page for the pizzeria called Slice that the uniform image was "highly offensive," according to the UK Times.

"Maybe these should be the new head office uniforms!! It's obvious they never consult with the workers who actually have to wear this garbage," Joseph wrote.

The worker had been at odds with his Scottish co-workers for a while.

In the restaurant's group chat on WhatsApp, Joseph sowed discontent when he said a co-worker looked like "he just got dropped off from a Mumbai helpline call center," the outlet reported.

Gov scores max campaign $$ from Bills

TOUCHDOWN! The billionaire owners of the Buffalo Bills donated $174,600 to Gov. Hochul and state Democrats after the team got $600 million in state funds for their new stadium in 2022.

Mike Groll/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

Hochul hits paydirt

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

Gov. Hochul has become one of the Bills' highest-paid players.

The billionaire owners of the NFL's Buffalo Bills showered Hochul and the state Democratic Party with nearly $175,000 in donations — after she pushed to spend millions in taxpayer cash on the team's new stadium.

Terry and Kim Pegula donated an eye-watering total of $174,600, the maximum amount allowed, between Hochul's re-election bid and the New York Dems' coffers, according to the latest campaign finance reports, released this week.

Terry Pegula threw $138,600 to the Democratic State Committee and $18,000 to Hochul's campaign in January, while his wife Kim, who co-owns the team, gave the incumbent governor $18,000, the filings show.

It's the largest sum the Pegulas have ever dumped into state elections, according to BOE reports, though they have previously given to some of Hochul's fellow Western New York pols, like County Executive Mark Poloncarz and other Democratic PACs.

$600M for stadium

It comes after Hochul — a proud member of the "Bills Mafia" — in 2022 steered $600 million in state funds to her favorite team's new stadium, located just outside Buffalo. Erie County chipped in another $250 million.

The total price tag on the project was first estimated at $1.4 billion, the largest construction project ever in Western New York.

"I don't know if we'd be here today without Kathy's support," Terry Pegula said at a ribbon cutting on the new Highmark Stadium in Orchard Park late last month.

He and Hochul were later pictured sprawled out on the grass of the stadium.

"Politicians like Kathy Hochul love taking credit for spending other people's money," Erie County Republican Committee Chairman Michael Kracker told The Post.

"The real MVPs behind the new Bills stadium are the New York State taxpayers who contributed $600 million, Erie County taxpayers who added another $250 million, and the Pegula family, who made a historic private investment to keep the Bills in Western New York," he said.

Hochul's campaign declined to say what she thought motivated the Pegulas to donate such a large sum — while taking aim at Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, her Republican opponent in the November gubernatorial election.

"The governor's historic investment in building a strong coordinated campaign means we will not only send Blakeman packing a sixth time this November, but also help Democrats take back the House and flip local offices across the Empire State," Hochul campaign manager Preston Elliott said.

Hochul's campaign reported it had $21 million on hand ahead of the election, according to the filings, plus an additional $22 million in the Democratic Party's account.

Painted into a corner by Hotel Chelsea

The city's famed bohemian Hotel Chelsea is trying to boot a longtime artist resident whose wildly colorful work lines its own hallways.

Gerald DeCock, 67, recently publicized his plight online to try to boost his bid to stay in his gold-leaf and glow-in-the-dark, star-adorned studio apartment, whose last tenant was Red Hot Chili Peppers frontman Anthony Kiedis in 1994, the resident said.

"I don't want money. I'm not asking for a buyout. I just want to stay here. I don't want to disrupt my life," the Colorado native recently told The Post.

The artist and hairdresser said he has been paying $2,700 a month for nearly 20 years for his 10th-floor apartment at the eccentric Manhattan haven-for-the-arts — frequented over the years by the likes of Bob Dylan, Andy Warhol and even Mark Twain.

Rooms currently start at $650 a night for guests.

He said his battle with the hotel's owners over his home and workspace began in 2007.

DeCock has since lost five court cases trying to prove his apartment should be rent-stabilized and that his rent should have consistently been closer to the monthly $600 that a previous tenant paid before him.

Yet even after the resident's last court loss in 2025, the owners of SIR Chelsea LLC bought 21 of his metallic and abstract paintings to line the hotel's historic walls. Then they handed him an eviction notice. *Katherine Donlevy*

Shooting at ICE protest

An employee at a Colorado ICE detention center allegedly shot a female protester Thursday night while trying to get to work.

Brandon Booth, 42, an employee of the GEO Group, which operates the Aurora ICE Processing Center in Colorado, was waiting in his car on a nearby street with other workers as a demonstration blocked their access to the facility, according to police.

Two female protesters reportedly instigated a verbal confrontation and took pictures of the detention center employees' cars before walking away.

Booth then allegedly fired a single shot toward the direction of the two protesters, striking one of them on her lower body, before driving from the scene.

He was arrested two blocks away and police believe the firearm used in the shooting was Booth's personally owned pistol.

He was slapped with charges of assault and attempted second-degree murder in relation to the shooting near the detention center, CBS News reported.

The gunshot victim was being treated at a hospital.

The suspected shooter was put on administrative leave. GEO officials said.

Ella Morrison

Trump $laps Canada spew

President Trump threatened to impose new tariffs on Canada Friday after the northern neighbor's raging wildfires caused hazardous air quality from Minnesota to North Carolina.

"We are holding Canada responsible for the fact that they are not properly maintaining their Forests, and Brush therein," Trump wrote on Truth Social — as Rep. John James (R-Mich.) and Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio) push legislation specifying a 25% fee on imports.

"I will call the Prime Minister to find out what they are going to do about it. The cost is incalculable!" Trump wrote. *Steven Nelson*

MARKWAYNE MULLIN
Announces five steps.

DHS boss: Work with us on elex or no cash

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin warned states on Friday they must cooperate with DHS on election security measures or their federal funding will be yanked.

"We are going to make our security enhancements mandatory, meaning that if these states want a grant and they want to be reimbursed to work or to run federal elections, they're going to have to implement security issues," he said.

Mullin was following up on President Trump's address to the nation on Thursday night where the president claimed China interfered in the 2020 election because Beijing didn't want him to spend a second term in office.

The Homeland Security secretary announced new election security crackdowns for the states ahead of the November election.

Without the steps, states risk losing $1 billion of taxpayer funds available for security measures through the Department of Homeland Security.

"We are going to make our security enhancements mandatory," Mullin said.

Homeland Security sent letters to four states — California, New Jersey, Nevada and Pennsylvania — to warn them they have thousands of non-citizens on their voter rolls.

The states pushed back, noting it's already the law of the land that only Americans can vote in US elections and that provisions are already in place to check voters' identification before they can cast a ballot. *Emily Goodin*

GO, (TO) CANADA!

BYE-BYE! Kaitlyn Tracey, alleged to have hit a woman at the Jersey Shore, will be deported back to Canada for overstaying her visa. Husband Matthew Geroni is a US citizen.

Instagram / @graymasterhash

'Assaulter' northern deport due

By CHRIS NESI

The Department of Homeland Security has revealed what is in store for the Canadian woman accused of slapping a patriotic teenager at the Jersey Shore on Fourth of July weekend.

Kaitlyn Tracey, 33, a Canadian national, is currently in custody at Delaney Hall immigrant detention center in Newark, after the alleged July 3 beatdown at Point Pleasant Beach.

She arrived in the US in 2024 using her passport but overstayed her visa, officials said.

"This illegal alien who assaulted a teenager has no business being in our country," DHS wrote in a statement on X, dubbing her a "maple leaf menace."

"She is now in [ICE] custody pending REMOVAL from our nation," the agency's statement concludes.

DHS also shared a widely circulating clip showing the incident, in which Tracey appears to be seen approaching a younger-looking woman wearing a USA 250 tank top and delivering two rapid-fire blows.

Tracey was arrested on Monday and charged with endangering the welfare of a child, simple assault, harassment and obstruction, according to court records viewed by The Post.

Living with hub in NJ

She was briefly held at the Ocean County jail before ICE took her into custody and brought her to Delaney Hall.

Tracey had been living in Asbury Park with her Trump-hating American husband, Matthew Geroni, who has been clamoring to have her released from the now-infamous detention facility that became the site of violent clashes between anti-ICE protesters and agents in recent weeks.

Geroni, who posted disturbing videos wishing for President Trump's assassination and praying for the president's family to get cancer on his now-private TikTok account — told NJ.com that he was upset a fundraiser trying to raise money for Tracey's legal defense was taken down.

A short-lived GoFundMe raised nearly $4,500 — roughly half of the $9,000 that was being sought — before the platform yanked the campaign for violating policies.

The campaign popped up later on GiveSendGo, and had raised $3,569 out of its $10,000 goal as of Friday afternoon.

Asked whether the new account raising money on Tracey's behalf violated its rules, a GiveSendGo spokesman told The Post they regularly review campaigns, but "at this time, the fundraiser you referenced does not violate our Terms of Service, which focus on activity and behavior within our platform."

Before his wife's arrest, Geroni posted a TikTok video in June centering on protests at the detention center Tracey is now being held at, portraying the protesters as peaceful and the police as violent, mindless thugs.

Ep-files 'death threats'

WASHINGTON — The liberal "Dear White Staffers" Instagram account collaborated on a post this week calling for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to "hunt down" and eliminate "the people in the Epstein files."

The account, whose content is frequently promoted by many Democrats in Congress, boosted activist Ariana Jasmine's Tuesday post, in which she dared critics to sue over the call for vigilante murder.

The Justice Department finished releasing approximately 3.5 million pages of files related to late convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein earlier this year.

The account began as a platform for minority staffers on Capitol Hill to voice grievances, vent frustrations and share gossip about lawmakers. *Ryan King*

Green card 'deposit'?

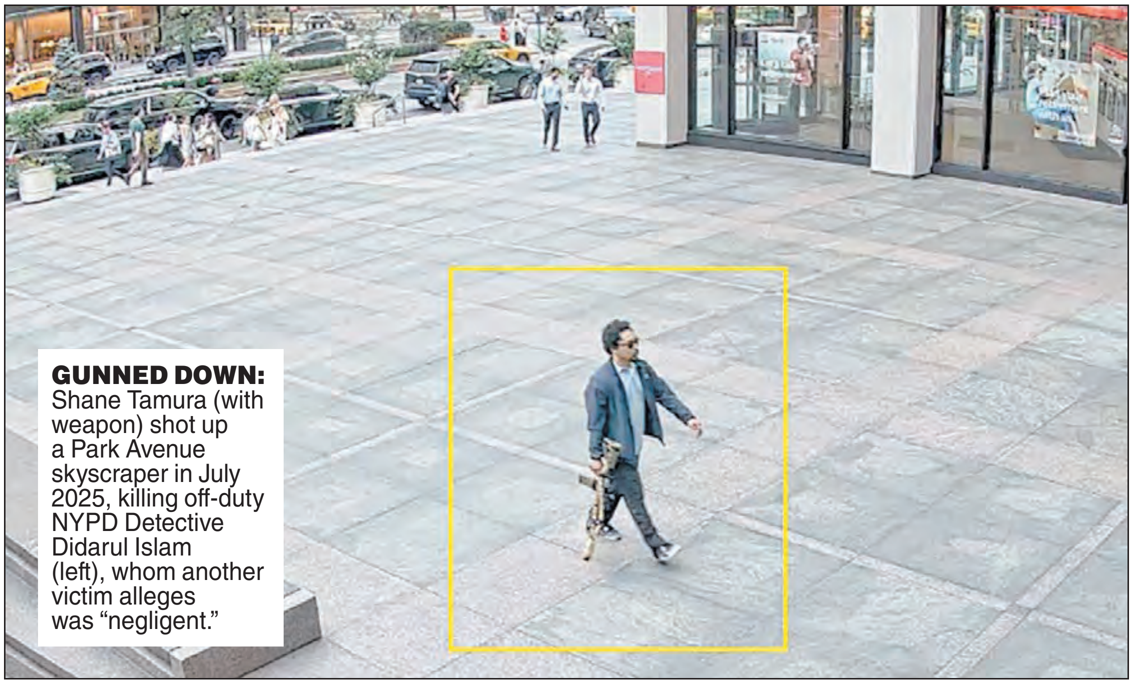
The State Department is considering requiring some green card applicants to hand over thousands of dollars in the Trump administration's latest bid to ensure new arrivals to the US can support themselves.

Some officials have floated making would-be legal permanent residents submit a $100,000 bond if applying at a US consulate overseas, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

Others said the deposit amount could fluctuate.

Green card holders would likely be repaid upon becoming US citizens. *Samuel Chamberlain*

Mass-shoot vic sues over ‘inaction’



GUNNED DOWN: Shane Tamura (with weapon) shot up a Park Avenue skyscraper in July 2025, killing off-duty NYPD Detective Didarul Islam (left), whom another victim alleges was “negligent.”

FALLEN COP IS BLAMED

By ELLA MORRISON
and PETER SENZAMICI

An NFL employee injured in the mass shooting at a Midtown office building last year plans to sue New York City for $24 million — claiming the slain off-duty cop’s negligence allowed the gunman to storm the building and carry out the deadly spree.

Craig Clementi, who worked in the NFL’s finance department, was severely injured after he was shot in the back by deranged gunman Shane Tamura at the Park Avenue skyscraper on July 28, 2025.

Clementi said that NYPD Detective Didarul Islam failed to stop Tamura, 27, from wounding him in the bloody massacre, according to a Manhattan Supreme Court filing last week. Tamura gunned down Islam and three other victims during the rampage.

Islam was working in uniform at 345 Park Ave. as part of the NYPD’s “paid detail” security program when an armed Tamura strolled into the building.

Video evidence

“Detective Islam . . . failed to identify a visible impending security threat and took no action to thwart or mitigate said threat, including while the threat was in view for an extended period of time prior to the attack,” according to the notice of claim.

The filing claims that Islam breached a special duty he had to protect people in the building by failing to notice the gunman walk roughly 100 feet across its outdoor plaza while carrying an M4 assault rifle in plain sight.

It is not clear if Islam, who was standing at the lobby entrance, saw the gunman before bullets flew.

“In short, the video evidence provides a good faith basis to assert that Detective Islam’s inattentiveness and negligence allowed the gunman to walk across the building’s plaza with a visible assault rifle and into the building; all without the gunman being detected, deterred, confronted, neutralized and without building/lobby occupants being warned of the approaching danger,” the lawsuit argues.

The special filing requests permission to sue the city well-beyond the typical 90-day window to bring claims, arguing that the shocking video evidence was not available until recently.

Clementi, who has worked at the NFL for nearly a decade as a senior director of labor finance, “was shot in close range” in his side and lower back as he stood in the lobby, around 10 feet away from Islam, according to court filings.

“Despite my injuries, I was able to flee through the building’s shattered revolving door,” Clementi states in an affidavit.

He then ran to NYPD officers on East 51st Street, where he “lay wounded on the sidewalk,” waiting for first responders, the document states.

Clementi suffered a lumbar fracture and was hospitalized for 10 days and required “home wound care nursing and physical therapy” after being discharged, one document in the filing states.

While Islam was technically off-duty from the NYPD while working as private security, the lawsuit argues that the city can be held liable in the case as his duties “remain within the city’s control.”

‘Tent’ion is high at Javits

Javits Center conventiongoers Friday said the lawless shantytown marring Manhattan’s West Side makes them feel “uneasy” — and blamed the sprawling skid-row blight on do-nothing lefty leaders.

The shocking homeless encampment — which sits roughly five blocks from the center, near 45th Street and 12th Avenue — made attendees of the “Fanatics Fest” sports convention feel “like you’re watching over your back,” said Candace Martino, who was in town for the event.

“It almost comes down to a Democratic state versus Republican state, because I lived in both. And I can tell you, it’s a day-and-night difference,” said Martino, 33, who lives in Florida.

“When you come up to a Democratic state, the cities are not clean,” she said. “The buildings are empty. It’s almost like these states are not progressing the way those other Republican states are.

“And with that, you’re seeing, like, all this homeless population increase, so it’s almost like they’re not trying to help, in a sense,” she said of Dem leaders.

Martino said the blocks-long Manhattan tent city made her “a little scared.”

“I don’t think it’s safe,” she said. *Khristina Narizhnaya*

DNA IDs Fla. killer gator

The alligator that killed hiker Brittany Clark in Florida has been identified through DNA testing, according to a report.

Clark, 31, died after her arms were ripped to pieces during a visit with her boyfriend and roommate to Little Big Econ State Forest in central Florida on June 28.

Following the attack, trappers killed two large gators — one 12 feet, the other 13 feet — they had found in the Econlockhatchee River.

Officials from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said DNA collected from the larger alligator confirmed it was responsible for the deadly attack. *Alex Diaz*

Paw-ful fate of Seattle star raccoon

There’s no masking the sad truth about Seattle’s superstar raccoon.

The deformed critter who went ultra-viral for his bizarre backbone — and lovable misfit energy — is doomed to live a short life because his spine condition makes it harder to evade predators and hunt, experts told The Post Friday.

The freaky furball, dubbed “Jimothy” by locals, suffers from short spine syndrome, a rare congenital condition that affects “almost zero” percent of animals, veterinarians said.

“If he doesn’t have the flexibility and agility to move from predators, this could turn out to be a sad story,” said Brian Collins of the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine. “I’d be concerned his biggest predator would be dogs or cars.”

Jimothy’s malformation could make it hard to climb trees, which raccoons use for shelter, and to forage for food, Collins said.

Animals with short spine syndrome also often have joint problems and compressed organs, which can make them prone to vomiting and constipation, he said. *Natalie O’Neill*

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Celebrating the culinary rise at WTC

25 YEARS LATER AND DOING FINE

stock.adobe.com; Emmy Park (inset bottom); Marco Stravers (inset top)

UNITING: Brazilian steakhouse Fogo de Chão (top left) and stylish Metropolis are part of a booming food scene at the Occulus and WTC.

STEVE CUOZZO

NEARLY 25 years since 9/11, the World Trade Center is a center of business, commerce and entertainment again.

No one forgets the nearly 3,000 victims of 9/11 who are commemorated in the memorial pools.

But honoring their memory doesn't preclude celebrating the rebirth of one of the city's most iconic places. In fact, a return to normalcy is truly a victory over the terrorists who attacked us.

Even as the buildings filled with 40,000 office workers, the revival was tinged with sadness.

One reason for the lingering pall was a lack of good places to socialize beyond mediocre "fast-casual" spots in the Oculus.

Mitchell Moss, a professor of urban policy at NYU, said, "The Oculus is a spectacular structure, but it's hardly a place that attracts foodies."

But that has changed. "David Rockwell designed an amazing restaurant, Metropolis, at the Perelman Performing Arts Center. The building is an amazing cultural hub, a real work of genius," Moss said.

'Paths forward'

Metropolis is one of a trio of fine-dining venues that now make the 16-acre grounds equally a scene for feasting and socializing.

The energy thrills Metropolis chef Marcus Samuelsson, whose connection to the World Trade Center dates back to occasional events he ran at fabled Windows on the World.

"The fact that we're so busy and packed at night at this special location is very gratifying to me," Samuelsson said.

"Culture, arts and food are among some of the best paths forward to help people deal with trauma.

"I think about what happened every time I walk up the stairs to the entrance. To open a restaurant that focuses on and celebrates New York City and offers a welcoming place for people to gather and break bread together is an incredibly powerful and meaningful way to gather, reflect and restore balance."

Since it launched two years ago in the arts center at the foot of One World Trade Center, Metropolis has blossomed into a prime destination for sparkling American cuisine.

Downtown Alliance president Jessica Lappin said "Metropolis is one of the places people associate with the energy of the World Trade center as a cultural and culinary destination that has reshaped lower Manhattan."

Up to 200 customers at a time come for lunch or dinner beneath undulating wood ribbons across the dining-room ceiling, on an open-outdoor terrace and in a second-floor outdoor lobby the restaurant shares with the arts center.

The lobby serves as a platform for DJs and free live performances programmed by the Perelman Center. Metropolis' menu boasts New York-themed dishes like Harlem Express, a trio of crispy and sweet fried-chicken parts and creamy grits, and "Upper West Side" steak tartare topped with béarnaise, tamari-cured egg yolk and trout roe.

Summer events

Samuelsson, who lives in Harlem, is committed to all of the city's neighborhoods. Metropolis runs a "Subway Series," a seasonal pop-up program on the terrace to showcase local chefs who don't have their own restaurants.

The new World Trade Center also boasts sprawling, multi-venue Eataly and the newest outpost of popular Brazilian steakhouse Fogo de Chão — which opened as the complex's first ground-level restaurant late last year.

Fogo de Chão, on the ground floor of Three World Trade Center, boasts an open churrasco grill where gaucho chefs butcher, prepare and grill different cuts of meat over an open flame. The rollicking Brazilian-style steakhouse offers a wealth of special summer events, including a surf-and-turf cocktail party on July 23 that will include tastings of fire-roasted cuts and seafood favorites.

Eataly, the sprawling market and noshing venue on the entire fourth floor of Four World Trade Center, gave the site its first culinary creds. Its restaurant Bar Firenze and several casual dining areas have been packed ever since.

Customers come for consistently good Italian dishes — especially al dente pasta — and for rotating promotions such as a Summer of Pesto celebration from July 16 to Aug. 2, featuring a limited-time prix-fixe menu starting at just $26.

People come for the views, too.

From Eataly's La Pizza & La Pasta area, I was awed by the sight of the memorial covered in summer green — a reminder of 9/11 but also of the World Trade Center's stirring regeneration since then.

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Harry jockeys update on king

PRINCE **Harry** gave updates on his family during a surprise appearance at the Time100 Sports Gala at Chelsea Piers on Thursday.

An insider exclusively told Page Six the Duke of Sussex told guests at the gala that his father, King **Charles** — who has been battling an undisclosed cancer since 2024 — is "doing great."

The spy also overheard the royal say his wife, **Meghan Markle**, and their children, **Archie**, 7, and **Lilibet**, 5, are "happy" to be home in California after their brief visit to the UK. "The kids are growing like weeds," Harry gushed to a guest.

Many guests jumped at the opportunity to speak to the royal. Page Six obtained video of Harry, 41, meeting Knicks star **Jalen Brunson** as the two shook hands and posed for photos.

Reps for Harry did not respond to Page Six's request for comment.

Harry took the stage to deliver a speech about the Invictus Games, the athletic competition for wounded military service veterans.

He began his inspiring address, "It's truly an honor to be here tonight to celebrate the power of sport. I don't just mean the big wins and historic moments. I mean the tough loses, the sacrifices, the moments that no one ever sees."

"Sport isn't just entertainment and competition," he said. "Sport is medicine."

Harry's appearance at the gala was not expected, and came days after his reunion with his estranged family in the UK. He arrived alone after he was denied taxpayer-funded security. But yesterday, Buckingham Palace announced Charles and Queen **Camilla** hosted Harry, Markle and their children at Highgrove House. It was the first time Charles, 77, had seen his grandkids since 2022.

Earlier in the evening, Harry spoke to Page Six on the red carpet about England losing to Argentina 1-2 in the semifinals of the World Cup. "Of course" he was upset over the loss, he exclusively told us.

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Homer town hero

ON Wednesday night, IMAX held a screening for "The Odyssey" at the AMC Lincoln Square and was eagerly anticipating the arrival of one **Tom Cruise**. But the movie star was not immune to the vicissitudes of Mother Nature: A thunderstorm delayed his arrival to the Upper West Side until 10:45 p.m., well after the screening of **Christopher Nolan**'s Greek epic had finished. A source tells Page Six Hollywood IMAX re-screened the movie for Cruise, one of the world's great proponents of the theatrical experience. But not before he got every AMC staffer sweeping up and restocking concessions into the theater to watch the movie with him.

Grateful for the job

SETH Rogen admitted he couldn't stop thanking **Penélope Cruz** while filming a sex scene for their movie "The Invite." "There's a scene where me and [Cruz] are having a romantically charged moment, and it seems like we might hook up with one another, and I just kept saying 'Thank you,'" said Rogen (above). "**Olivia Wilde**, the director, was just like . . . 'Why do you keep saying "Thank you"?'" Rogen said it's how he would feel in real life. "All I have is gratitude," he said. "I would be apologetic and thankful. I'm sorry."

NFL 'GOAT' Tom Brady wails on WWE legend Logan Paul at Fanatics Fest . . . but observers say it *might* have been staged — like a wrestling match. (See Page Six story at right.)

Fanatics/X

Fanatics slap-fest

TOM Brady and **Logan Paul** were beefing at Fanatics Fest Friday. Whether it was real or staged, the moment appeared to have Knicks star **Karl-Anthony Towns** shaken as the three were together in front of a live audience at the Javits Center, as Brady appeared to slap Paul with his throwing hand. Brady also posted the apparent incident afterward, calling Paul a "dork." Fanatics also posted the back-and-forth, calling it "Round 100" of a "never-ending beef." On another post that went up rolling the video, Paul reshared and wrote, "This happened bc I was roasting Tom for beating him in flag football. And he tries to smack me ?? Horrible example for the kids Aura -100 + Blocked. With a torn tricep." Brady, the seven-time Super Bowl champion quarterback, responded, "I tried America . . . will try again next time I see this nerd." The two were linked at another Fanatics event, a flag football game earlier this year. In the game, Brady — who was not Paul's teammate — chucked a football at him following the conclusion of a play. The influencer, celebrity boxer and WWE star took exception to it — or at least appeared to — and confronted the future Hall of Famer.

email us: **tips@PageSix.com**

Fest's final frontier

WILLIAM Shatner's new heavy metal band just booked a major gig. The actor, 95, will debut the group at this year's Riot Fest. "After years of writing letters . . . Riot Fest 2026: Now with 100% more William Shatner," the music festival announced. They said his band is called the *uckers and included an image of Shatner sticking his tongue out and doing devil horns. The "Star Trek" icon (above) will perform Sept. 20 in Chicago. "I decided that you're such big fans of mine, that I'm going to debut my heavy metal record at Riot Fest," he said in a video. "I hope that you're there — and I hope I'm there."

New Bey-Jay gate-crasher

IT'S a hard-knock life! A 63-year-old male motorist from The Bronx smashed into the gates of **Beyoncé** and **Jay-Z**'s estate in East Hampton this week, with cops telling us the man appeared to be "confused." According to the police report, the NYC resident was "driving at a high rate of speed up the driveway" and failed "to stop at the closed mechanical driveway gates," which caused "significant damage." The man was placed under arrest and taken to Stony Brook hospital for pain. The vehicle was impounded, and officers completed a criminal trespass and criminal mischief affidavit. The responding officer, Detective Sgt. **Jennifer Dunn**, tells Page Six the man "has no criminal history and he seemed confused at the scene and after the arrest. He did not make any threats or mention names of the residents. It could just be chance he picked that house if he was having a medical issue." Dunn tells us that while they are still investigating, there were "no weapons found, no notes found, no direct threats made and no direct mention of residents of the house, so we are not sure he even knew who lived in that house at this point." Reps for Jay-Z and Beyoncé did not return our requests for comment. The East Hampton Star was the first to report the news. According to the Star, the man had attempted to get into another house first, but the homeowner said "no" and the man "left with no problem," Dunn reported.

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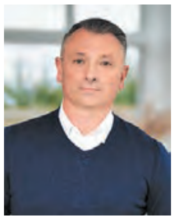

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‘Most Wanted’ con bust

A Rhode Island fugitive who had been on the run for 20 years and was featured on “America’s Most Wanted” was captured by US Marshals on his sailboat off the coast of New York.

Ronald L. Fischer was tracked down by federal agents to his 56-foot-long sailing vessel “The Silver Lining” about an hour offshore on Thursday, ending a wild goose chase to take down the sex offender, according to the US Marshals Service.

Fischer, 70, had been on the lam since 2005, when he fled Rhode Island during his criminal trial in Newport for allegedly raping a woman on his yacht named the “Lion King,” two years earlier.

The former anesthesiologist, described as being a “master yachtsman, world traveler, and being internationally connected,” used over a dozen aliases, including Richard Graydon — the name “The Silver Lining” was registered under when he was arrested.

Federal and state agents had gathered information of Fischer’s location “over 48 hours” and intercepted the runaway in the waters, roughly an hour from New York, where he was taken into custody without incident, officials said.

Nicholas McEntyre

‘Inside job’ $58K theft

A receipt checker at a Sunrise, Fla., Sam’s Club is accused of letting a man walk out with stolen televisions and other high-end merchandise nearly 50 times — in a con pilfering $58,000 in goods.

Brenda Jacqueline Gayle Archer, 57, manned the door of the wholesale store, and would rubber-stamp the receipts of Troy Sidney Lawrence, 36, after he bought low-priced items and used the receipts to walk out with high-ticket items, NBC Miami reported, citing arrest records.

It was not immediately clear if the accused had lawyers. *Priscilla DeGregory*

THANKS A MILLIE-ON

A-lister’s surprise act class bloody brilliant

By XAVIER SERRANO

ELEVEN OUT OF TEN: “Stranger Things” star Millie Bobby Brown surprised students on the Upper West Side with an unforgettable acting lesson as part of the web series, “Celebrity Substitute.”

Youtube/Celebrity Substitute (2)

She brought the West End to the Upper West Side.

“Stranger Things” superstar Millie Bobby Brown surprised a crew of lucky second graders with an acting lesson that not even the little students could believe.

“The ‘Stranger Things’ main character, I saw her in person today. I know that she’s not real . . . right?” one boy named Prince questioned after his once-in-a-lifetime class.

Brown swung by PS 84 as part of the hit web series, “Celebrity Substitute,” which has superstars playing teachers on skills like music video filming and developing a fashion sense.

The 10 students had no idea they would be meeting the “Enola Holmes” star — and erupted in screams when they walked through the door to find her near the stage.

‘She’s so British’

“Hi, Ms. Millie!” the children roared.

The actress, 22, began her lesson by asking the youths if they knew the basic jargon that is used on an acting set.

Cycling through terminology would take a twist as Bobby Brown’s English accent made it difficult for the young actors to understand.

“She’s so British I can smell her accent,” quipped little Harley, who has a few paid acting gigs under her belt and offered her own advice to the movie star.

The diminutive star described her knowledge of acting as pretending to do something rather than actually doing it, as she followed up with an impromptu demonstration of how to “fake” riding a rollercoaster.

Brown taught the class improv and scene-building and offered pointers on how to show more emotion.

Volunteers came up and gave hysterical facial expressions as the English actress hid her smile behind her clipboard.

But the nosy kids seemed more interested in Brown’s marriage to Jake Bongiovi, the son of music legend Jon Bon Jovi.

When asked why one would like to be happily married in the future, a rowdy red-haired child named Joseph exclaimed, “I want to be married because I want to have someone I can hang out with all the time!”

The star’s visit wasn’t the only jaw-dropping surprise — the children’s eyes filled with glee when brand-new stage equipment for the students’ drama department was rolled into the room.

Amazon gifted the school rehearsal mirrors, sets, costumes, lights and other filming equipment.

A few teachers came out at the end of the lesson as their hearts welled with joy at being able to witness the happiness on the faces of the kids enjoying the brand new equipment.

“They’ve been working so hard, so they deserve this. This is for them,” Ms. Toni Ann, one of the teachers, said.

1st UES death in ‘Legion’ outbreak

The first person has died from the Legionnaires’ disease cluster on the Upper East Side, health officials announced Friday as the outbreak shows no signs of slowing.

“I am saddened to report that one person has died in connection with the Legionnaires’ disease community cluster on the Upper East Side,” New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Alister F. Martin said in a statement.

“My deepest condolences are with their loved ones, and out of respect to their personal privacy, we will not be releasing any additional information on the individual.”

The number of those stricken in the city continues to rise — with 67 cases reported as of 9 p.m. Thursday night, up from 63.

Currently, 12 people remain hospitalized in relation to the Upper East Side cluster, officials said.

Over 50 people have been hospitalized during this summer’s outbreak of the disease, according to the city’s tracking site.

All victims of the latest outbreak have been on the Upper East Side from the cluster in Carnegie Hill and Yorkville.

The disease, which stems from Legionella bacteria that has been found in 76 cooling towers across Upper East Side neighborhoods and one on the Upper West Side, is a deadly type of pneumonia that can be treated with antibiotics if caught early.

All 76 towers that tested positive for the bacteria, including at the bustling Metropolitan Museum of Art and several at ritzy Upper East Side schools, were ordered to be disinfected and cleaned. *Ella Morrison*

RIKKI SCHLOTT

Deadly risks

URBAN exploring is in the headlines after a daredevil couple scaled the Empire State Building to get engaged atop its spire, in a publicity stunt.

The pair were Instagram famous for pulling off risky stunts, often in illegal settings, for social media content — and inspiring kids to follow their lead.

Local New York City kids have been known to partake in the "urbex" trend by breaking into abandoned subway cars and theaters or scaling bridges and buildings.

But such pursuits have left some injured — or dead.

"You get this feeling that you're so free and nobody's going to stop you — you can do whatever you want," Chris F., a 20-year-old urban explorer from Long Island, said. "It's a weird feeling when you're in a building that nobody cares about and nobody goes into. It triggers this thing in your brain where you're like, 'Holy s--t, I could do anything.' "

Interest in urban exploring has exploded in popularity since the pandemic. On TikTok and Instagram, there are thousands of videos of mostly teens scaling buildings and exploring all sorts of creepy places, like abandoned theaters and hospitals. The Reddit forum for urban exploring attracts more than a hundred thousand viewers weekly.

'A whole addiction'

Chris, who asked to withhold his last name due to privacy concerns, works night shifts at McDonald's while pursuing a mass communication degree. He first heard about urban exploring at 17, when a local Long Island teen posted about a nearby abandoned spot, the Kings Park Psychiatric Center.

Chris went, and ever since then he spends every moment between school and work "exploring," saying: "It turned into a whole addiction. I couldn't keep up with normal stuff because I was constantly in buildings and making videos. I would get out of work at midnight and drive to spots. Or I'd almost be late to work because I was trying to squeeze everything into one day."

Since then, he's visited countless locations he learns about online, like the abandoned Morton Street School in Newark, NJ, and the Central Islip Psychiatric Center.

"It just became addicting, the TikTok views, the Instagram views, meeting people, the insane stuff that would happen," Chris said, admitting social media creates a cycle.

"Seeing other kids do it online — and seeing people get online traction from it — made me want to go further into it."

But taking huge risks by trespassing into places that have been closed to the public because they're dangerous, usually to chase online clout, is incredibly risky, like subway surfing.

Chris had one especially scary experience at the former military base Camp Hero in Montauk, where a friend was injured after a staircase collapsed.

"He fell three stories and almost died," Chris said. "I had to create a staircase to help all my friends back down, and then we had to walk this kid to the car. His head was busted.

"We probably should have called for medical help. I always said it was by the grace of God that he was OK after that."

Other young people have been less lucky, like 20-year-old Trevon Anderson, who fell off a ladder when climbing out of underground water tunnels in Lincoln, Neb., this March. He died at the scene from a head injury.

'We're just bored'

"The places he's been — it's insane," his mother, Alissa Anderson, told The Post. "I never knew these things existed. All of our buildings downtown have tunnels underneath, and basements. He'd explore those, and he'd go to the tops of buildings downtown. If there was an entrance or a way to get in, he'd get in."

Anderson said she told her son, a business student at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, to be careful and stick with trusted friends.

She also demanded he allow her to track his phone.

"The way he would phrase it was innocent. He was like, 'We're just exploring. We're just bored.' I never thought anything of it," she said.

"I don't think that he thought [something tragic] would ever happen."

Trevon isn't the only victim of urban exploring gone awry.

Earlier this year, a 16-year-old boy who fell 50 feet into a maintenance shaft of the Queensboro Bridge while scaling it with friends was "left to die" by his friends.

He ultimately survived after sustaining catastrophic injuries.

In March, a 16-year-old boy fell to his death from a metal tower in Bushwick while taking photos for social media. As both were underage, they weren't named by authorities.

New York State Police warned that month that they would charge anyone found in abandoned structures, saying in a statement: "In addition to the legal consequences, these locations are inherently dangerous.

Many abandoned buildings are structurally compromised and may contain hazardous materials, open shafts, exposed wiring, or other unsafe conditions that can result in serious injury or death."

Last December, 19-year-old

FACES OF 'URBAN EXPLORATION' TRAGEDY

Rebecca Bunting built an Instagram audience with pictures in abandoned places like this one, but drowned when a flash flood hit while she was taking photos of the underground storm-drain system in Philadelphia.

A 16-year-old suffered catastrophic injuries falling into a maintenance shaft of the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge, before being rescued by cops.

Trevon Anderson, 20, fell off a ladder when climbing out of underground water tunnels in Nebraska and died of head injuries.

Courtesy of Tina Fluharty/CITIZEN/Courtesy of Alissa Anderson

just for the likes

Gen Z explorers tempt fate with urban 'stunts'

POLICE LINE DO NOT

THRILL SEEKERS: Jamie D. (left), an urban explorer from Connecticut, says she tries to minimize risk, while Chris F. (right) calls it an art form.

Courtesy of Jamie D.

IN GOD WE TRUST

> You get this feeling that you're so free and nobody's going to stop you — you can do whatever you want.
>
> —Chris F, a 20-year-old urban explorer from Long Island

Courtesy of Chris F.

Leah Palmirotto fell six stories from a shuttered hospital on Emory University's campus in Atlanta which had once been used as a set for the hit show "Stranger Things." It was shortly before 1 a.m. on a Saturday night, according to investigators.

"Leah was 19," her father, Todd Palmirotto, told The Post. "Leah went in on Dec. 19, 2025, and never came out."

He says he is still struggling to explain "what happened that night" and "how our daughter got to the roof of a six-story building and fell to her death."

'Too fearless'

These tragedies have been going on for years. Back in 2018, Rebecca Bunting, 30, died by drowning after a flash flood hit while she was taking photos of the underground storm drain system in Philadelphia, intended for the thousands of Instagram followers on her urban exploring account.

Her mother, Tina Fluharty, 64 of Shadyside, Md., says her daughter had been obsessed with photographing obscure locations since she gifted her a camera at age 19.

"I think it was just part of her nature — to be curious," Fluharty told The Post. "She didn't just go look at places and take pictures. She would research them. She loved it. 'What went on here? Why?' "

But her mother became concerned when Rebecca sent increasingly precarious photos from her trips. "I was very concerned," she admitted. "She was too fearless. I'd think, 'Be careful. Step away from the edge, girl.' "

Tragedy struck in June 2018, when Fluharty sent police to conduct a welfare check on her daughter. "What I didn't realize is, they were already looking for her . . . as the woman who was swept away by floodwaters," she said. "I never thought it would actually happen. Nobody thinks that, until the day it happens."

Jamie D., a 25-year-old urban explorer from Connecticut, does what she can to avoid tragedy.

She told The Post one of her friends once fell from the second floor to the first of an abandoned home.

'Bad actors'

"Luckily, she just had a bunch of bruises, but she was OK," said Jamie, who also asked to withhold her last name.

"I've definitely missed out on some cool spots because I just don't want to risk my life," she added. "People may call me a baby for it, but I'm not going to climb something crazy or walk over a floor that's collapsing."

Ben Mitchell, a 19-year-old from Swarthmore, Pa., says he sees urban exploring as an "art form," as a form of self expression, but admits "there are a lot of bad actors," especially as it has blown up on social media.

He and others who spoke to The Post said they were less worried about the consequences when they were younger as it's widely understood in the community that minors are treated less harshly for trespassing.

Juvenile trespassing cases are also usually handled in family court, where proceedings are confidential and don't produce criminal records.

None of the urban explorers who spoke with The Post have been charged with a crime.

Chris had one encounter with a police officer while exploring in Long Island, but was let go without incident.

"It's widely known that you pretty much get let off any [minor] charge if you're under 18," he said. "A lot of these kids have it in their heads: 'I've got to go hard until I turn 18.' They usually don't stop when they turn 18."

Despite the legal and safety concerns, the urban explorers who spoke with The Post say they will continue seeking the thrill.

Surprisingly, even Fluharty, who lost her own daughter, sees the appeal.

"I do think urban exploring is a worthwhile endeavor," she said.

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Wegovy 2 mg/ 3ml	4 doses	$150.00
Jardiance 25mg	240	$180.00
Mounjaro 2 mg/ 3ml	4 doses	$300.00
Xarelto 20 mg	224	$168.00
Farxiga 10 mg	240	$285.00
Januvia 100 mg	240	$200.00
Entresto 97mg + 103mg	180	$440.00
Viagra 100mg	100	$100.00
Rybelsus 14mg	30	$305.00
Kerendia 20mg	56	$190.00
Tradjenta 5mg	240	$240.00
Trelegy Ellipta	4 Inhalers	$408.00

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Maine debate a trans wreck

Dem activist's viral answer

By KATE SHEEHY

A trans intersex activist vying to replace disgraced Maine Senate wannabe Graham Platner as the Dem Party candidate has gone viral for their absurd answer about their qualifications in a debate Thursday.

Loopy longshot Ashley Webb gave a bizarre rambling response when asked by a moderator what qualifies them for the top office.

"I ran for office several times. Didn't win, but I did run," the Democrat chuckled.

"And then I'm a songwriter, and then I write my own books, and then I suppose my transparency," Webb said. "I wouldn't lie to the people, and I wouldn't deceive the people like we're being deceived right now. Like we get lied . . . smoke and mirrors.

'Angry citizen'

"Like what's going on with ICE . . . Pretending like these victims did something wrong. Like it's unacceptable," said Webb, who was wearing a black and pink flowered dress with white and pink sneakers.

ASHLEY WEBB
Vying to replace Platner.

"And I suppose the biggest thing is like I'm just an angry citizen right now, and if I get elected, I'd be an angry senator.

"And I think that would probably be their worst nightmare," Webb said.

The clip of Webb's cringe-worthy response during the debate had more than 750,000 views and rising on X Friday.

Platner's campaign infamously imploded when he was forced out of the race earlier this month after he was accused of rape by an ex-girlfriend, sending his already-beleaguered party into turmoil. He vehemently denied the allegation.

There are now 12 candidates, including Webb, seeking to replace him when the party convenes at the end of the month to nominate someone for the November election against incumbent GOP Sen. Susan Collins.

The other Dem hopefuls range from Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows to the founder of the Maine Beer Company, Dan Kleban and "writer/actor" Kristina Libby, according to local WMTW.

'Twilight zone'

Platner, a scruffy-looking once-popular oyster farmer, had said the party needs an outsider — but maybe not quite "outside" as Webb, observers mused.

"Surely you can't be serious," conservative politico Dave Rubin wrote on X, referring to Webb's debate performance.

Another person quipped, "Sounds like part of the script from Napoleon Dynamite!" referring to the 2004 cult-classic flick about a wacky kid running for high-school class president.

Someone else sniped, "Pure twilight zone. What are these answers???"

Webb, asked in a Dem voter-guide questionnaire why they are running, responded, "This nomination process began because Mainers organized, showed up, and demanded a candidate who would actually fight for them.

"I intend to build directly on that energy, not replace it."

'Full term' for Graham sis: Don

President Trump urged the late Sen. Lindsey Graham's sister to run for a full six-year term later this year after meeting with her in the Oval Office.

Sen. Darline Graham Nordone (R-SC), 62, assumed her brother's seat on Tuesday — and Trump's endorsement would likely ensure her victory in the Republican primary.

"We have known each other for a long time — She is a spectacular person, and a true American Patriot," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"During her visit, I asked Darline, for the Good of our Nation, to run for the U.S. Senate in the Special Republican Primary on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. I hope Darline does this, in that there would be nobody better to honor the legacy of her beloved brother, Lindsey."

At Trump's urging, South Carolina Republican Gov. Henry McMaster on Monday appointed Nordone to serve the remainder of Graham's term, which ends Jan. 3, 2027.

Nordone, a wife, mother of two and grandmother, is the first woman to represent South Carolina in the Senate.

Nordone had never held public office before her Senate appointment.

Steven Nelson

Choke skater hunted

A skateboard-wielding twerp who put an angry motorist in a chokehold during a viral fight in the East Village this week is being hunted by the NYPD.

Cops asked the public for information Friday to help them track down the bleached blond attacker seen in the twist-filled, one-minute video posted on X.

The altercation between the unidentified skateboarder and a 34-year-old motorist unfolded Tuesday around 3:50 p.m. along St. Marks Place near Second Avenue, police said.

After a fight, the skateboarder put the driver in a chokehold that caused him to lose consciousness and sent him to the hospital in stable condition, cops said.

Freelance photographer Michael O'Hara, who shot the video, said the fight erupted after the skateboarder accused the motorist of almost running him over with his Mercedes SUV. The attacker then used his skateboard to the club the car several times, before he throws it, the video shows.

The irate driver ran out and picked up the board from the sidewalk, using it to land a blow against its owner. *Matt Troutman*

TOT SURVIVES FALL

Arrest after Bx. 1-yr.-old's 5-story drop

Peter Gerber

SHOCKING: An unidentified man is in handcuffs on Friday in The Bronx after a 1-year-old fell five stories but survived at 593 Oak Terrace in Mott Haven (top left). The child was listed in stable condition at the hospital.

By DANIEL CODY

A 1-year-old boy miraculously survived a fall from a fifth-floor window in The Bronx Friday evening and was hospitalized in stable condition, cops said.

The tot tumbled from a window at 593 Oak Terrace in Mott Haven at around 6:40 p.m. and landed in the backyard, according to authorities.

The baby was alert and conscious when first responders arrived, according to the FDNY.

He was taken to Harlem Hospital in stable condition.

One person of interest is in custody following the incident, the NYPD said. The Post captured a photo of man in handcuffs being hauled away from the scene. Several other young children were also seen being escorted into a police cruiser.

Praise for responders

A witness described seeing a little boy on a stretcher: "Face down with a bandage covering his face."

"This is heartbreaking for me," said the witness, a mother of three.

"I heard the sirens, and I decided to come out."

She said other witnesses who were able to get into the backyard where the boy had fallen said there was "a lot of blood" and that the child "was not responsive to the care that was given to him."

While first responders were tending to the tot, the woman said she saw an older man "pacing" near the scene, but he didn't appear to be the baby's father.

"I did see an older man pacing back and forth almost as if he was the one that witnessed what happened or heard something," she told The Post.

The woman praised first responders for how they handled the situation.

She said a young firefighter climbed into the building through a window and "opened the gate for authorities to be able to answer."

"It was pretty calm. Everyone did really well, you know, under the circumstances, not knowing what — what was really going on," she said.

Additional reporting by Peter Gerber and Marie Pohl

Moped gang roundup

A 17-year-old boy was busted and multiple other moped-riding menaces are wanted by police in a weeks-long, 29-incident robbery spree that mostly targeted chain-wearing victims across Queens and Brooklyn, police said Friday.

The teen was nabbed Tuesday in connection with seven robberies between July 1-8, said the NYPD.

In six of the hold-ups, he and his accomplices allegedly stole chains from men between the ages of 16 and 49 in Astoria, Richmond Hill, Bayside, Ozone Park and Flushing, police said. He was charged with grand larceny in those crimes, authorities said.

In another, the teen and his pals allegedly rolled up to a 41-year-old man on 87th Road near 155th Street in Jamaica at 5:10 p.m. July 1 and stole a moped, authorities said.

All of the victims were either unharmed or refused medical attention, according to police. *Joe Marino*

Car kills B'klyn walker

An 80-year-old woman walking on a Brooklyn sidewalk was killed Friday by a luxury car that hopped the curb, cops said.

The tragedy occurred just before 1:30 p.m. when the driver, 63, made a right onto East 92nd Street from Rutland Road in East Flatbush, according to the NYPD.

"A car came up on the sidewalk and scooped [her] underneath the car and just dragged her," said Smiley Adams, who witnessed the horrifying crash after hearing a "loud bang" and "tires screeching."

"I couldn't believe it."

The driver remained at the scene of the accident.

There have been no arrests and an investigation is ongoing. *Peter Gerber and Katherine Donlevy*

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

You may have to make a sacrifice of some sort this weekend but you know that in the long-term it will be worth it. Whatever moves you closer to your ultimate goal is to be welcomed, even if you have to give up certain things along the way.

LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

Look back over the past few months and assess how far you have come. The fact is you have covered a lot of ground in a relatively short space of time and have every reason to be proud of yourself. Now ask yourself what you can do next.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

What occurs this weekend may catch you by surprise but most likely it's your own fault for refusing to face up to reality. Wake-up calls are rarely pleasant but this one will point you in the right direction and give you a helpful push, so welcome it.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You may be tempted to tell a friend or family member what you think they want to hear but that would be a mistake. They are looking to you to be honest with them, because they know that is the only way they are going to learn.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Try not to get too caught up in the idea of winning and losing. We live in such a competitive world that we sometimes forget there are situations where everyone can prosper. You will win best this weekend if everyone else wins as well.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

This is an important weekend for you in that the decisions you take now will cast a long shadow into the future. By all means listen to what other people tell you but recognize that in the end it is your own judgment that matters.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

There is no point being cautious when everyone else is moving at maximum speed. If you don't want to get left behind this weekend you can and you must take a few risks, because your rivals won't be waiting for you to catch up.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

The only things that can hold you back are your own doubts and fears. With Pluto in your sign still moving retrograde you may be reluctant to push ahead with your plans, but your ruling planet Uranus says it's got to be now!

PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You may not be entirely sure that a particular course of action is going to be right for you, but don't let that stop you from acting as if it is. The universe will respond to you best if you can show it you have 100 percent self-belief.

ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

If a family member wants to go their own way and do their own thing this weekend you must let them. Think of it as an emotional investment: if you give them their freedom now they will love you all the more for it later on.

TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

It may seem as if you are no closer to a goal than you were several months ago, but while you may still be in the same place in a material sense you are far better prepared to move fast when the opportunity arrives, which it will very soon.

GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

Mars in your sign does wonders for your self-belief and what occurs over the next 48 hours will confirm that you have what it takes to compete at the highest levels. If you keep your eye on the prize it won't be long before you possess it.

BIRTHDAY SATURDAY

With the outer planets strong on your birthday you need to find meaningful causes to pursue. The more you join with others to make the world a better place the more the world will reward you emotionally, materially and maybe spiritually too.

Post Weather Report

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Saturday

Today: Humid with showers and a heavier t-storm. High 75 to 81.

Tonight: Humid; a heavy t-storm early. Low 69 to 75.

Sunday

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and less humid. High 80 to 86.

Tomorrow night: Clear. Low 62 to 68.

Monday

Mostly sunny. High 79 to 85.

Evening
Partly cloudy. Low 68 to 74.

Tuesday

T-storms. High 78 to 84.

Evening
T-storms. Low 70 to 76.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

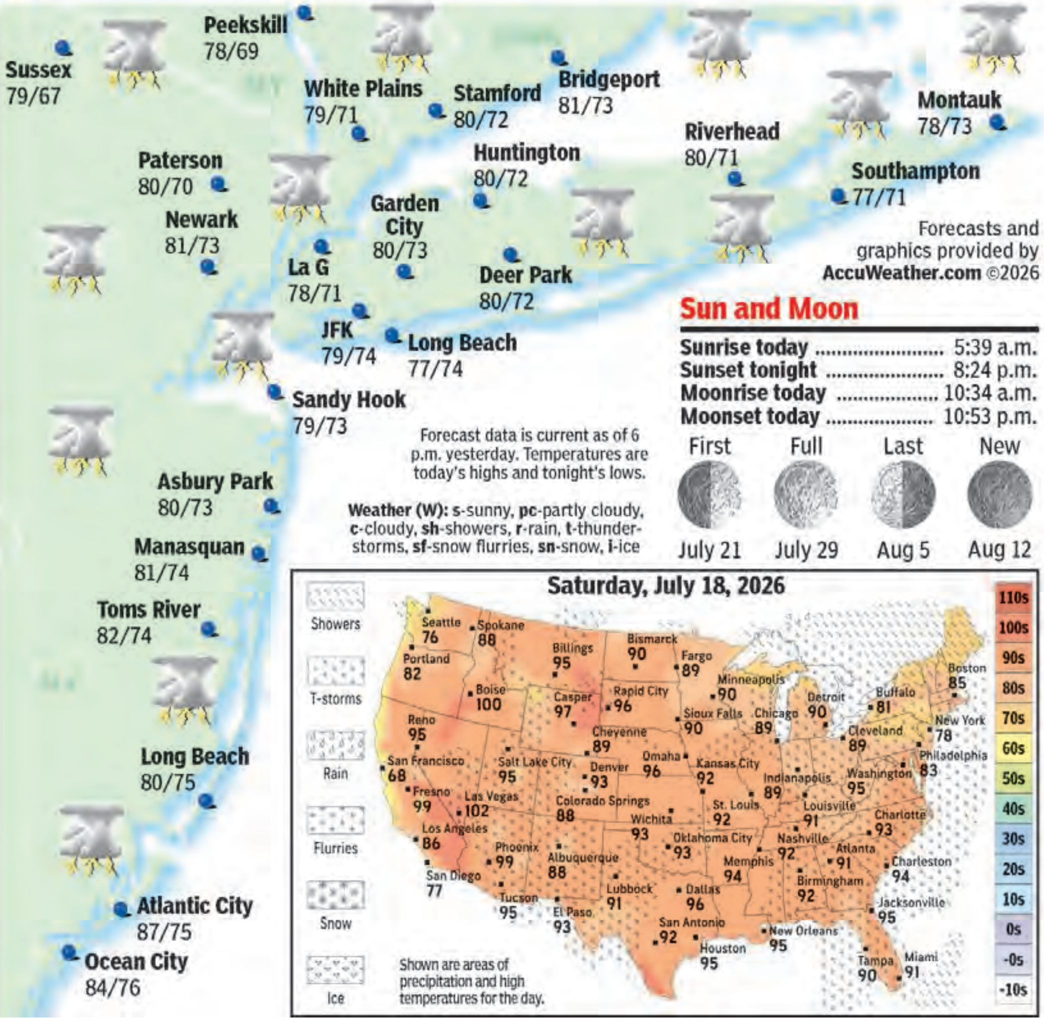
Temperature
High: 86, Low: 70, Mean: 78

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: 0 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 1.83",
Year: 19.65", Normal year to date: 26.10"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 13
Total for the month (normal) 232 (211)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 632 (519)
Last year to date 575
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 83
UV index (for Sat.) .... 3 (Moderate)
Humidity (at noon) 35%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sat.) ....Moderate


Sussex 79/67
Peekskill 78/69
White Plains 79/71
Stamford 80/72
Bridgeport 81/73
Montauk 78/73
Riverhead 80/71
Paterson 80/70
Huntington 80/72
Southampton 77/71
Newark 81/73
Garden City 80/73
La G 78/71
Deer Park 80/72
JFK 79/74
Long Beach 77/74
Sandy Hook 79/73
Asbury Park 80/73
Manasquan 81/74
Toms River 82/74
Long Beach 80/75
Atlantic City 87/75
Ocean City 84/76
Saturday, July 18, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 76
Spokane 88
Portland 82
Billings 95
Bismarck 90
Fargo 89
Boise 100
Casper 97
Rapid City 96
Minneapolis 90
Detroit 90
Buffalo 81
Boston 85
Reno 95
Sioux Falls 90
Chicago 89
New York 78
Cleveland 89
Cheyenne 89
San Francisco 68
Salt Lake City 95
Denver 93
Omaha 96
Kansas City 92
Indianapolis 89
Washington 95
Philadelphia 83
Fresno 99
Las Vegas 102
Colorado Springs 88
St. Louis 92
Louisville 91
Wichita 93
Charlotte 93
Los Angeles 86
Oklahoma City 93
Nashville 92
Phoenix 99
Albuquerque 88
Memphis 94
Atlanta 91
Charleston 94
San Diego 77
Lubbock 91
Dallas 96
Birmingham 92
Tucson 95
El Paso 93
Jacksonville 95
San Antonio 92
New Orleans 95
Houston 95
Tampa 90
Miami 91
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:39 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:24 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 10:34 a.m.
Moonset today .... 10:53 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
July 21	July 29	Aug 5	Aug 12

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	11:53a	---	12:02a	12:44p
Fire Island	11:51a	---	12:09a	12:45p
Hempstead	2:54a	3:27p	3:46a	4:17p
Huntington	2:48a	3:19p	3:39a	4:08p
Jones Inlet	11:37a	11:46p	12:28p	---
Montauk Point	12:20a	12:55p	1:13a	1:49p
Port Washington	3:00a	3:33p	3:53a	4:25p
Sandy Hook	11:57a	---	12:06a	12:48p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	81/64/t	80/52/s
Danbury	80/69/t	81/54/s
Glens Falls	80/61/t	79/48/s
Gr Barrington	78/62/t	77/50/s
Kingston	79/66/t	83/54/s
Liberty	75/61/t	75/51/s
Monticello	78/60/t	75/48/s
Newburgh	79/68/t	84/55/s
Poughkeepsie	81/67/t	82/52/s
Saratoga Springs	81/62/t	80/53/s
Stroudsburg	77/66/t	81/53/s
Torrington	78/63/t	79/56/s
Syracuse	85/62/t	76/57/s

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	96/76/s	95/76/s
Baghdad	118/86/s	119/88/s
Beijing	87/69/t	90/72/pc
Berlin	78/57/sh	72/56/sh
Cairo	100/78/pc	102/78/pc
Dublin	71/50/pc	72/51/pc
Geneva	85/61/t	84/58/sh
Hong Kong	90/84/t	88/83/r
Jerusalem	90/70/s	91/72/s
Kabul	96/73/pc	98/73/pc
London	78/55/s	75/56/pc
Madrid	98/69/s	98/69/s
Mexico City	74/55/r	77/56/r
Montreal	73/59/sh	76/57/pc
Moscow	78/58/s	82/60/s
Paris	85/57/s	78/56/c
Rio de Janeiro	79/67/s	81/67/s
Rome	94/74/s	93/74/s
Sydney	66/58/sh	66/53/pc
Tokyo	88/77/t	93/78/c

American Tale

How Homer's 'Odyssey' captures the US soul

PATRICK J. DENEEN

AMERICAN moviegoers are packing theaters this weekend for "The Odyssey," Christopher Nolan's new blockbuster— an entirely fitting way to extend and deepen their July 4th celebrations honoring the Declaration of Independence.

That's because the director's source material, Homer's 2,500-year-old poetic masterpiece, portrays an ancient human tale that to Americans feels deeply familiar. Nolan's film tells not only the story of Odysseus, but the story of the American soul.

Odysseus' narrative is that of a wanderer who seeks his homecoming. Following the brutal conclusion of the Trojan War, he is among the victorious Greeks who depart the shores of Troy, only to encounter great travails in their journeys home.

For Odysseus, the circuitous trip back to his island of Ithaca takes 10 grueling years. Along the way, he encounters extraordinary creatures: beasts, gods, monsters, even the drug-doling Lotus-eaters.

His curiosity leads him into the deadly cave of the Cyclops; he is enchanted by the goddess Circe and nearly forgets his goal; he almost throws himself overboard to hear the enticing song of the Sirens.

Yet in spite of every temptation to chase perfect knowledge, unending pleasure and even immortality, his heart remains at home. That's the American story: More than the inhabitants of any other nation, Americans are seekers and explorers, pioneers and pathfinders, trailblazers and astronauts.

Most Americans can trace their presence on this continent to forebears who picked up stakes from somewhere else to seek out a new land, who departed from the familiar for the unknown, to seek a more promising future for themselves.

Yet at the same time, those same forebears came here to make a home, to settle, to put down roots. That's why I call "The Odyssey" the most American of ancient texts: If we look closely, we see in it an image of ourselves in the portrayal of a man who is simultaneously an explorer and a home-seeker.

We see this duality in the Founding generation — indeed, our first president and national hero embodied it. As a young man George Washington keenly surveyed the unknown lands to the west and sought to open the frontier to European exploration.

The original Columbus? Matt Damon stars as Odysseus in the new flick.

Melinda Sue Gordon / Universal Pictures via Everett Collection

His patriotism compelled him to repeatedly leave Virginia and heed his country's call when needed, whether to lead troops into battle or to serve as president in New York and Philadelphia.

Yet throughout his life he unwaveringly expressed his devotion to his beloved Mount Vernon home, and openly longed to return there. "I had rather be on my farm than be emperor of the world," he reportedly said.

Shortly before Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, he composed a pamphlet that contributed to his fame and led John Adams to appoint him to be the Declaration's lead author. In "The Summary Rights of British America," Jefferson enumerated God-given rights that he later listed in America's founding document, life and liberty among them.

He also emphasized another right about which we hear much less: the right to free movement.

All people, Jefferson wrote, possess the right "of departing from the country in which chance, not choice, has placed them, of going in quest of new habitations, and of there establishing new societies, under such laws and regulations as to them shall seem most likely to promote public happiness."

Thus did Jefferson describe two ideals that have come to define America: our freedom to go elsewhere, and the importance of settling down and making a home. These paired themes of exploration and homecoming pervade both "The Odyssey" and America's self-understanding.

The tale of a man who avidly seeks out new experiences but maintains his commitment to home and family resonates because its themes have found a distinctive, intensified expression here. In fact, the very discovery of the New World was widely understood as an Odyssean undertaking.

As Columbus sailed west, eventually to encounter a new continent, European intellectuals widely described his courageous voyage as a new version of Odysseus' journeys. To their minds, it was Odysseus who metaphorically discovered America.

Two weeks after cheering America's semiquincentennial, it's important to recall the complexity of the American story — and our divided national soul.

While July 4th rightly underscores the primacy of freedom, of liberty, and of the right to pursue our own happiness through freedom of movement, our Odyssean inheritance reminds us that we are also a people of loyalty, devotion, sacrifice and love of family, friends and places.

If it's a coincidence that we encounter anew the Odyssean elements in our own tradition in the same month we celebrate our nation's 250th, it is a happy one.

Patrick J. Deneen is the author of "American Odyssey: What an Ancient Story Reveals About Our Divided Souls."

FAST TAKES

From the right: DSA Pins Hopes on Michigan

The implosion of the Platner campaign in Maine went "about as horribly as it possibly could have," and now attention turns Michigan, where Abdul El-Sayed's run for US senate is "really thrilling DSA hearts," snarks National Review's Jim Geraghty. El-Sayed accuses reporters of "fixating" on his calls to "defund the police" instead of how Medicare for All is the "centerpiece of his domestic agenda." Hah! Though Medicare for All "is the topic he has spent his life's work on and presumably knows more about than any other issue," El-Sayed refuses to "ever give a price tag on what his plan would cost." He also routinely blames AIPAC for everything, including "artificial intelligence, the national debt, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer."

Conservative: Maine Dems Distrust Their Voters

"Under wildly different circumstances, Democrats in Maine and Republicans in South Carolina face the problem of finding a new nominee to run for the Senate this November," reports the Washington Examiner's Byron York. To replace Graham Platner, Maine Democrats will convene 601 insiders "to select the new Democratic nominee" in "a pretty insular affair." Meanwhile, South Carolina Republicans "are planning a special primary after the death of Sen. Lindsey Graham"; the only controversy is over whether to "exclude those who have already voted in the Democratic primary" on June 9. South Carolina's "Republican nominee will be chosen by voters"; Maine's "Democratic nominee will be chosen by a few hundred party officials and activists." So: "Which is the party of democracy?"

Fertility watch: The Left vs. . . . My Babies

"The left-leaning press is wildly suspicious about the medical intervention that allowed me to become a mother," thunders The Free Press' Madeleine Kearns. "Restorative reproductive medicine," a k a RRM, "assumes that infertility is a symptom of an underlying condition" that must be "diagnosed and treated" to "restore the patient's health." The left treats this "natural procreative technology" with "wild suspicion," seeing it as a "backdoor way to further limit reproductive rights" because it "was pioneered by a devoutly Catholic gynecologist" and is "championed in MAHA circles." But support "from right-leaning groups doesn't mean it's a bad treatment" — and she has a 1-year-old to prove it, plus a baby sibling now on the way.

Music beat: Stop the EU's Royalties Grab

The European Union is ready to take nearly $300 million from American artists, and "Congress is the only body on earth that can stop it," warns Gene Simmons at The Wall Street Journal. Because US broadcast stations don't pay performers and labels for recordings played on the radio, making billions off of uncompensated artists, the European Commission is looking to end such royalty payments in the EU. Instead, the bipartisan American Music Fairness Act would ensure that Big Radio pays "performance royalties while also protecting small local broadcasters" — and also make "Europe's proposal null and void." But the House and Senate Judiciary committees have yet to send it to the floor. With Europe "threatening to take away money that artists have earned, it's time for Congress to stand up on behalf of American artists."

Gene Simmons

Energy desk: Hochul Bans 'the Future'

New York "just became the first state" to "ban the future," thanks to Gov. Hochul's one-year data-center moratorium, sighs Josh Wolfe at The Free Press, simply because the "political winds" shifted and she's facing reelection. Yet "every durable gain in living standards" has come from "technological advances," "AI is the next chapter" — and data centers are essential. Hochul's ban is "worse than a mistake," because "if you want the little guy to compete with the giants, you don't ration electricity"; you "flood the zone with it." These centers also create enormous demand for electricians and plumbers, driving "wages skyward." Yes, electricity prices have risen, but the answer is "not less demand but more supply." Instead, we get "elections over electricity and vibes over volts."

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

NEW YORK POST
America's oldest continuously published daily newspaper

A Waste of a Speech

Election security is a legitimate issue, but President Trump's prime-time speech on the issue was a dud that won't even help pass the SAVE Act that aims to address the problem.

And even most Americans who share his concerns would've preferred to hear more about the economy or the war.

Trump himself didn't seem to have his heart in it. His points didn't always hit home, either: The Chinese have gathered more than 200 million voter files? OK, but what can they *do* with the info?

It "includes names, addresses, phone numbers, political party preferences," the president reports. But much of that is available in the phone book, and more can be purchased from a host of sources.

And if he's that upset about it, shouldn't he be raising hell with Xi Jinping?

Our electoral system has major vulnerabilities: States like California have gone bananas regarding how they distribute, collect and count ballots; many fail to prune their rolls of people who've died or moved away. But there's still no hard evidence of voter fraud extensive enough to make a difference in any election, barring a very few extremely local races.

We too favor tighter election protocols, voter-ID laws and other provisions of the SAVE Act, but Republicans don't have the votes to get it through the Senate and they won't get them anytime soon.

Most important: Election security is nowhere near the top of the list of America's priorities right now. The public's attention, even to our president, is a limited commodity. A major address demands a major issue, and rehashing horror stories about changes to Michigan voter-registration rules in 2020 ain't it.

In less than four months, Americans will decide what the last two years of Trump's presidency are going to be about: Growing the economy and creating peace — or impeachment, investigation and socialism. If you don't put that choice front-and-center, Mr. President, the GOP won't win even if they're the safest elections ever.

The City Council Racket

Members of the New York City Council, largely unemployable in any real job, voted Thursday to pay themselves more than US senators or most governors.

The 18.2% hike will boost their pay to $175,000, far more than almost any of them ever made before getting elected, or could ever hope to earn again.

The Quadrennial Advisory Commission, which recommended the fat pay increases, is a useful tool for the council to pretend they aren't really voting themselves a raise, just ratifying what the commission (a pack of friendly insiders) suggested.

The city "last enacted a salary increase for its elected officials in 2016," the QAC notes, and the "cost of living has skyrocketed." But today's council members weren't in office in 2016, and they ran for the job *knowing* what it paid — a big income increase for most.

About 40% of today's council members got their only significant professional experience as staffers for politicians; this is just another step in careers in politics.

It used to be deemed a part-time job, until "reformers" outlawed outside income to "professionalize" the council. That is: To reserve it for professional politicians, excluding nearly all private-sector professionals.

These tax-eaters have lived in the bubble for so long they've lost all perspective.

Councilman Ty Hankerson (D-Jamaica) told Gothamist that $148,500 is too low because of the many bills he must pay. Yet the median household income in his district is $71,000; imagine how bad his constituents who work real jobs must feel for him.

Adding to the insult here, the raise is retroactive to January, when the City Charter says the council *can't* give itself a raise: The hike shouldn't take effect until in the following term, giving voters the choice of letting their representatives enjoy the raise or not.

It's bad enough that the council is packed with hacks. That they'll likely get away with raising their own salaries is simply obscene.

Goodbye, NY Rule of Law

Leaving no doubt that lefty politics trump the rule of law in these parts, New York state Chief Judge Rowan Wilson just tapped far-left actress Cynthia Nixon to help select future members of the top court.

She's no lawyer; she only played one on TV (on noted legal drama "Sex and the City") — yet that, along with her far-left cred, is apparently enough to qualify her for the Commission on Judicial Nomination, where she'll recommend judges to serve on the Court of Appeals.

Wilson himself became top judge only because lawmakers openly refused to accept anything but a far-left partisan in the job, one sure to twist the law to impose their agenda without them having to actually vote on the record to pass it into law.

On the bench, Wilson he has inappropriately campaigned for legislation and against long prison sentences. He's even scolded judges for using harsh language against monstrous criminals. That's not the kind of neutrality expected of judges, let alone those on the state's highest court.

And now he's tapped Nixon, who ran for gov on a far left platform in 2018, to help choose future judges on the top court. It's real power: Governors can only choose among the commission's nominees in tapping new judges for the state's top court.

The hard left keeps making more progress in ensuring that no democratic vote can remove it from power: Pray for New York.

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letters@nypost.com

Crazed Canadian's Attack Had No Place in America

THE ISSUE: A Canadian illegal immigrant allegedly slugging a teen in MAGA clothing on the Jersey Shore.

NEW YORK POST
Page Six
METRO EDITION
THE HATE WHITE NORTH
Canadian in ICE custody after slapping teen over Trump clothing

- I was utterly disgusted to read about an illegal immigrant woman, Kaitlyn Tracey, being arrested for the assault and battery of a teen on the Jersey Shore ("ICE: Time she maple-leaves," July 16).

This is not an isolated incident, as suggested by the accompanying stories of Tracey's husband, as well as a former Marine candidate for the Florida legislature, both wishing for President Trump to die. This is not Trump Derangement Syndrome — it is insanity.

I am a member of the Jewish faith. I have seen people walk around wearing swastikas. You are less likely to be physically attacked while wearing Nazi paraphernalia than walking around with Trump merchandise.

Stuart Ellison, Brooklyn

- Tracey is another example of America letting the wrong people into the country. When she's finally gone, she can take her vile husband with her.

Nicholas Maffei
Yonkers

- So I see the unhinged lefty woman slapping a teen girl for wearing pro-Trump attire didn't work out so well for her.

Maybe she should have stayed in Canada, because in the United States you have a right to wear whatever you want. It's covered by the First Amendment.

I see this story has a happy ending, as it turns out she was here illegally and is awaiting extradition.

Dan Gardner
Staten Island

- I strongly recommend that the 16-year-old girl or her parents file a lawsuit against Tracey while we still have physical jurisdiction over her in the United States. Service of process will be a snap.

I also recommend that any of Tracey's assets have liens put on them to ensure the girl will get paid if her lawsuit is successful. That would include the defense fund Tracey's husband created for her.

I am sure there are a few lawyers in New Jersey who would be happy to take such a case.

Wayne Johnson
Alexandria, Va.

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JD's Jejune Israel-Bashing

THE ISSUE: The Post editorial on Vice President JD Vance's bid to blame Israel for the failed Iran MOU.

- The Post's editorial admonishing Vice President Vance for blaming Israel for his and the administration's failures to end the Iran conflict is right on point ("Quit It, JD," July 17).

The one-sided MOU that President Trump tasked him with negotiating was at best ill-conceived with virtually no chance of success.

Could anyone other than a true neophyte have expected that the Iranian leadership would actually honor an agreement forbidding them from engaging in terrorism and their ultimate goal of destroying Israel?

Moreover, to give grist to those already disposed to believe anything negative regarding Israel is shameful, pernicious and grossly irresponsible.

Mitchell Schwefel
Barnegat, NJ

- Thank you for your editorial calling out Vance as a purveyor of pure lies about Israel.

Whether prompted by ignorance or calculation, such distortions have no place in the mouth of anyone representing our government, and most especially not anyone who aspires to be president in 2028. As a Republican, I'd sooner vote Democrat over Vance.

Helaine Smith
Manhattan

- Can someone please remind Vance that Israel is not the problem? Israel is only defending its right to exist.

He needs to remember the famous quip: If Muslims put down their weapons, there would be peace in the Middle East. If Israelis put down their weapons, there would be no Israel.

Peter Boeko, Manorville

E-MAIL: letters@nypost.com or **WRITE** to The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Banana-Republic UK

The new leader no one elected

BRENDAN O'NEILL

IMAGINE a country where a politician can waltz into power without ever facing a public election. Where a leader with no mandate, no manifesto, and no mass support can simply seize control and enforce his bleak ideology.

Imagine waking up one day to find your homeland is now under the thumb of some grifter you never voted for, barely know and don't particularly like.

Welcome to Britain.

Yes, this once-great nation, this plucky island that long fancied itself the mother of modern democracy, is morphing into a banana republic.

This week, I and millions of others discovered we have a new prime minister that not one of us voted for. Send help, America! Your cousins across the ocean are laboring under the yoke of an unelected government!

His name is Andy Burnham, and on Monday he will officially become Britain's leader, whether us Brits like it or not. Many, myself included, do not. He's been a Labor Party high-up for years, holding various ministerial positions in the governments of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. For the past 10 years he was mayor of Manchester.

Then — in a coup that would make Pinochet blush — he stood in a by-election in the North of England so that he could challenge useless Keir Starmer for the Labor Party's leadership. He won, and as a result he was crowned leader of the nation too. He's been spirited into 10 Downing St. not by the ballots of the people, but on the say-so of Labor Party bigwigs.

If such a breezy seizure of power were to occur in any other country, Britain's chattering classes would be screaming "Tyranny!"

But because they like Burnham — and distrust Joe Brit — they have no problem at all with this Very British Coup.

Please bear one fact in mind when you see Burnham gurning on your nightly news as the anchor says "Britain has a new Prime Minister . . . ": *We did not vote for him.*

And what does he stand for?

Your guess is as good as mine.

His first speech as Labor Party leader, delivered on Friday, was heavy on vibes but light to the point of emaciation on substance.

Even The Guardian — which has been fawning over Burnham like a teenage girl at a Harry Styles gig — called it "half an hour of dense rhetoric." Obama-style, he laid on some hope-mongering, saying he will "bring back hope." He aims to instill "hope in every heart." Thanks, but if I wanted some dime-store therapeutic stroking, I'd tune in to Oprah.

ZUMAPRESS.com

All vibes: Andy Burnham is "light to the point of emaciation on substance."

We don't need our political leaders to put hope in our hearts — we need them to put cops on the streets and guards at the border and oil-drillers in the North Sea.

When us little people *have* been granted a glimpse of "the Burnham ideology," it has been depressing indeed. He seems hell-bent on appealing to the keffiyeh-wearing, pronoun-declaring insane left rather than to sensible, struggling Britons. He recently put out a video to solemnly moan about Israel's "crimes" in Gaza — clearly red meat for the Israelophobes of the Islamo-left.

He's throwing our Jewish friends under the bus in a desperate effort to win back cranky Muslim voters and posh leftists who mistake hating Israel for having a personality.

Burnham seems confused on eco-lunacy issues, too. He says he's open to more drilling in the North Sea but also agrees with Starmer's manifesto pledge to grant no more drilling licenses. Which is it, Andy?

Honestly, why can't any British politician echo the searing moral clarity of Donald Trump, whose "Drill, baby, drill" mantra brilliantly elevated the material interests of working Americans over the moral pretensions of Greta-style greens?

And Burnham has nothing to say on our border crisis — on the hundreds of fighting-age men from distant, regressive lands rocking up on our shores week after week.

In fact, he says he'll never try to "out-Reform Reform" — that is, to fall in with Nigel Farage's Reform UK party, which is promising to deport illegal immigrants and reassert our fundamental sovereign right to determine who may come here and who may not.

What an idiot Burnham is: Millions of working-class Brits support Reform precisely for its pro-borders position. In sneering at those principles, he is sneering at every decent Brit who only wants to live in a secure nation.

Burnham won't "save Britain." He has nothing of substance to say on the crazy cult of Net Zero, the marauding religion of wokeness, or the failure of government after government to repair our borders.

Those are the issues Brits care about. Yet our new unelected overlord couldn't care less.

Brendan O'Neill is chief political writer for the British online magazine spiked.

DEM LAWFARE: THE PERPS *MUST* PAY

JOSH HAMMER

IT'S easy to forget, but from 2022 through 2024, Democrats engaged in some of the most reckless, republic-destabilizing actions since their partisan forebears fired on Fort Sumter in 1861.

In colluding to prosecute then-former (and future) President Trump on sham legal grounds across four different jurisdictions and three separate prosecutors, Democrat-Lawfare Complex thugs acted in a manner more befitting tribal warlords of a third-world hellhole than elected officials in the greatest country on Earth.

They crossed a line that never should have been crossed, effectuating the old Stalinist creed, attributed to Soviet secret police chief Lavrentiy Beria: "Show me the man and I'll show you the crime."

Many have found it convenient to move on, but details about the Democrats' depths of lawfare depravity are still emerging. Over the past couple of weeks, we've learned more about so-called special counsel Jack Smith, the one-man wrecking ball who brought the twin federal probes against Trump in Washington (the 2020 election case) and in Florida (the classified documents case).

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) revealed that Smith's own henchmen may, ironically, have committed the same classified documents offenses for which Smith prosecuted Trump. Grassley also disclosed that Smith obtained text messages from 44 Republican members of Congress — despite Smith's explicit denials of doing exactly that.

That looks an awful lot like perjury.

And perjury is actually just the tip of the iceberg: Smith and his primary colluders — namely Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and Fulton County, Georgia, District Attorney Fani Willis — may have committed myriad other crimes.

For instance, federal law criminalizes conspiring to "injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any person . . . in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States." That's an awfully good match for the lawfare cabal's coordinated assault on Trump and the rule of law.

There has thus far been no accountability for Democrats' debilitating lawfare. Former Attorney General Pam Bondi, to her credit, oversaw the indictment of scandal-plagued former FBI Director James Comey, but the case was dismissed on procedural grounds.

The same thing happened to the Bondi Justice Department's indictment of New York Attorney General Letitia James, who in 2018 had sought statewide office in the Empire State on a Beria-esque platform: James said her run for office was motivated by a desire to hold "that man in the White House" accountable.

Forget about securing the blessings of liberty or meting out justice — for some, it's just "Orange Man Bad" all day long.

Enough already. These scoundrels must pay for the havoc they unleashed and the torch they took to our rule of law. Democrats drone on about "norms," but their lawfare cabal blew up countless norms — and then forgot it ever happened.

But not that's not how it works. Only with real accountability and justice for those who acted so wrongly can we ensure this lawfare never happens again.

And in light of Grassley's new revelations, Rabbi Hillel's famous question comes to mind: "If not now, when?"

Todd Blanche, Trump's acting attorney general who just had his confirmation hearing to take the job permanently, is just the man to secure real lawfare justice for the American people. Blanche has a sterling resume for the nation's top law enforcement job: As legal eagle Jonathan Turley said on Fox News, Blanche is one of the most qualified attorney general nominees in the history of the Justice Department.

He prosecuted violent crimes for eight years in the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, and more recently he served as Bondi's deputy attorney general, meaning he ran the department on a day-to-day basis.

Even more significant is what Blanche did between those stints at SDNY and Main Justice: He represented Trump as the president's lead criminal defense attorney at the very height of the Biden-era lawfare. That shows Blanche is principled.

It shows he has moral courage — far more, frankly, than the crusty barnacles of the conservative legal establishment. But even more important, it means Blanche lived firsthand through the Democrats' lawfare hell on earth. If anyone wants accountability now, it's Blanche — and he knows where the bodies are buried.

Americans deserve justice for the Democratic lawfare that almost destroyed the republic. Todd Blanche will help us get it.

Josh Hammer is Newsweek senior editor-at-large.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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E1 O1 O1 N1 R1 C3 N1 — RACK 1

A1 U1 K5 B3 D2 M3 N1 — 3rd Letter Triple — RACK 2

E1 U1 Y4 S1 B3 T1 P3 — Double Word Score — RACK 3

A1 E1 E1 E1 C3 L1 F4 — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 218

FOUR RACK TOTAL ______
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

N1 O1 N1 C3 O1 R1 E1	RACK 1 =	59
M3 U1 D2 B3 A1 N1 K5	RACK 2 =	70
S1 U1 B3 T1 Y4 P3 E1	RACK 3 =	78
F4 L1 E1 E1 C3 E1	RACK 4 =	11
PAR SCORE 150-160	TOTAL	218

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 7 4
♡ Q 4
◇ A K J 10 9 3
♣ A Q 6

WEST
♠ K J 9 5
♡ 7 5
◇ 7 2
♣ J 8 7 4 3

EAST
♠ A 8 2
♡ A J 10 9 8
◇ 8 6 4
♣ 10 9

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 6 3
♡ K 6 3 2
◇ Q 5
♣ K 5 2

North	East	South	West
1 ◇	1 ♡	Dbl	Pass
3 ◇	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead – ♡ 7

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Counting your tricks as declarer or a defender is a basic play principle. It may not be a bad idea to count your opponents' tricks as well. If you are defending against 3NT and can count nine tricks for declarer, you had better take five first.

In today's deal, East had overcalled in hearts, so West led the seven against 3NT. Dummy played low, and since East knew that South must hold the king and didn't want to let South score two heart tricks, East followed with the eight.

That defense was penny wise and 730 points worth of foolishness. When South took the king, he swiftly cashed six diamonds and three clubs for an overtrick.

East can see that declarer can win six diamond tricks (even if he lacks the queen) and two clubs (with a finesse if needed). Though South's negative double promised four cards in spades, East's only chance is to grab his ace of hearts and shift to the deuce of spades. With West holding K-J-9-5, the defense can take four spades for down one.

Word Force

COOKWARE

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 11** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
ILLEGALIZED

agile
ailed
eagle
elide
gazed
gelid
glade
glaze
glide
ideal
ladle
lazed
ledge
legal
liege

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FRANCE'S CHAMPAGNE REGION — **Solution: 6 letters**

E	U	N	E	V	A	B	F	R	A	N	C	E	R	T
S	N	H	O	T	E	L	N	U	B	G	R	A	P	E
O	O	R	R	U	O	T	B	I	T	T	E	R	W	E
R	C	H	A	R	D	O	N	N	A	Y	B	O	I	W
E	E	H	A	M	T	U	R	B	X	R	C	V	N	S
M	A	L	A	T	A	P	O	U	R	A	T	A	E	D
I	N	L	L	T	I	L	A	T	T	P	I	S	M	R
R	V	E	R	N	E	E	E	H	I	G	L	E	F	A
P	I	N	O	I	R	A	E	D	L	U	R	O	M	Y
A	T	T	R	E	W	D	U	A	E	C	R	O	O	E
L	I	T	L	E	R	S	S	M	I	E	R	F	E	N
L	C	L	O	A	M	S	Y	E	S	A	L	U	T	I
I	O	Ⓒ	Ⓛ	Ⓐ	Ⓨ	L	R	T	Y	E	L	L	A	V
V	L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E	E	T	U	A	H
S	E	Y	O	R	T	T	E	P	E	R	N	A	Y	V

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Aroma, Avenue, Bitter, Bottle, Brut, Cathedral, Chardonnay, Château, Clay, Epernay, Floral, Forest, France, Fruit, Glass, Grape, Haute, Hotel, Landscape, Mercier, Moët, Noir, Ocean, Palmer, Pinot, Pour, Reims, Salut, Savor, Sip, Sweet, Swirl, Toast, Tour, Train, Troyes, Vallée de la Marne, Valley, Villa Primerose, Vineyard, Viticole, Vollereaux, Wine, Year
Yesterday's Answer: Black Diamond

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at ***www.SudokuWiki.org***

Very Easy #7,343

5		9		1				
	4		2		9		8	5
					3	1		
6						5		7
9			6	7	2			8
3		2						9
		7	5					
4	1		3		6		7	
				8		3		4

Difficult #7,133

	1				9			
		4		1	6	2		3
		6				9		
9						1		
		3	4	5	8	7		
		7						2
		5				6		
3		1	6	4		5		
			8				3	

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 34

© Syndicated Puzzles

Quick Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11	■	■	■
12							13					14	■	■
15													16	■
17			■	18					■	19				20
21			22	■	23				24	■	25			
■	■	■	26	27				■	28	29				
■	30	31			■	32		33						
34			■	35	36		■	37			■	38		
39			40				41		■	42	43			■
44						■	45		46			■	■	■
47				■	48	49				■	50	51	52	53
54				55	■	56				57	■	58		
■	59				60						61			
■	■	62												
■	■	■	63				■	64						

Across

1 Doctrines
8 Incomplete Wikipedia article
12 1990s sketch comedy show
15 PBS series hosted by librarian Mychal Threets
17 Lemon juice?
18 Javelin
19 Strong suit
21 Conditional word
23 Senior
25 Mother of Apollo and Artemis
26 Shaping tool
28 Tillamook's state
30 Blast
32 "Am I free to go?"
34 Complex trap
35 Nail salon brand
37 Gen ___
38 ___ États-Unis
39 Recklessly
42 Has a summer job?
44 Recently
45 Birds paraded on Saint Stephen's Day in Ireland
47 Pressing need
48 Hardship
50 Grow friendlier
54 Squeals
56 ___ nerve
58 Like
59 "Regardless of what you think ... "
62 "I deserved that"
63 "Do-Re-Mi" figure
64 Spanish wives

Down

1 Expression of grief
2 Youngest Oscar winner
3 Part of a frame job?
4 Just OK
5 Dollar alternative
6 Second-rate
7 Capellini
8 Alarm
9 French pronoun
10 Pinkie-side bone
11 Gravity-powered racer
13 Equipment that may level the playing field
14 Copper alloy popularized by its use in Fabergé eggs
16 Wipes brand
20 Vocal qualities
22 Lens opening?
24 Sports reporter Holly
27 Up in the air
29 Played over
30 Barbecue option
31 Snacks for sea otters
33 Leeway for a test-taker
34 Start of some "Jeopardy!" responses
36 Neoplasticism pioneer Mondrian
40 Offered as an inducement
41 App gestures
43 Setting not observed by most of Arizona: Abbr.
46 Ruling classes
49 Opportunity on Mars, e.g.
51 Chills
52 Word in many Polynesian languages
53 Los Angeles neighborhood where many Walter Mosley novels are set
55 Royal address
57 Business org.
60 Anticipatory period
61 Duran Duran album with the hit "Hungry Like the Wolf"

S	I	D	I	N	G	■	S	I	C	■	I	N	E	R	T
S	N	I	D	E	R	■	H	B	O	■	N	I	N	E	R
A	V	O	I	D	A	V	O	I	D	■	C	A	C	T	I
■	E	C	O	■	B	A	E	Z	■	P	A	L	L	I	D
C	R	E	M	A	■	P	L	A	N	E	P	L	A	N	E
A	S	S	A	M	T	E	A	■	E	T	S	■	V	A	N
T	E	E	T	E	R	■	C	L	A	N	■	R	E	S	T
■	■	■	I	R	A	T	E	I	R	A	T	E	■	■	■
M	I	S	C	■	D	I	S	S	■	M	O	N	R	O	E
A	S	U	■	G	E	T	■	T	W	E	E	T	E	R	S
R	O	M	E	O	R	O	M	E	O	■	S	A	R	I	S
S	L	A	T	E	S	■	E	R	O	S	■	L	A	O	■
B	A	T	H	S	■	U	T	I	L	E	U	T	I	L	E
A	T	R	I	A	■	F	A	N	■	A	M	U	S	E	D
R	E	A	C	T	■	O	L	E	■	L	A	X	E	S	T

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Dow Jones Indust. Avg. **Down 406.55** **52,146.42**

Business

Nasdaq Comp. **Down 361.70** **25,520.24**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hawks circle

Cleveland Fed President Beth Hammack added her voice to a growing chorus of policymakers arguing interest rates may need to rise to beat back persistent inflation, setting up the possibility of dissents at Chairman Kevin Warsh's second meeting at the Fed's helm.

Boe milestone

The Federal Aviation Administration said it will allow Boeing to take responsibility for certifying all of its 737 MAX and 787 planes starting next week, a significant milestone for the planemaker as it ramps up production.

Netflix sinks

Netflix shares tumbled 7% and hit a 52-week low of $65.08 in intraday trading as the streaming giant's weaker-than-expected earnings forecast rattled investors.

Build stress

Single-family housing starts and building permits dipped in June, weighed down by higher mortgage rates and a glut of unsold new homes on the market.

Luxe wound

Burberry said the Iran war was hurting tourist spending in Europe, sending the British luxury brand's shares down more than 6% even though quarterly sales were strong in the US and China.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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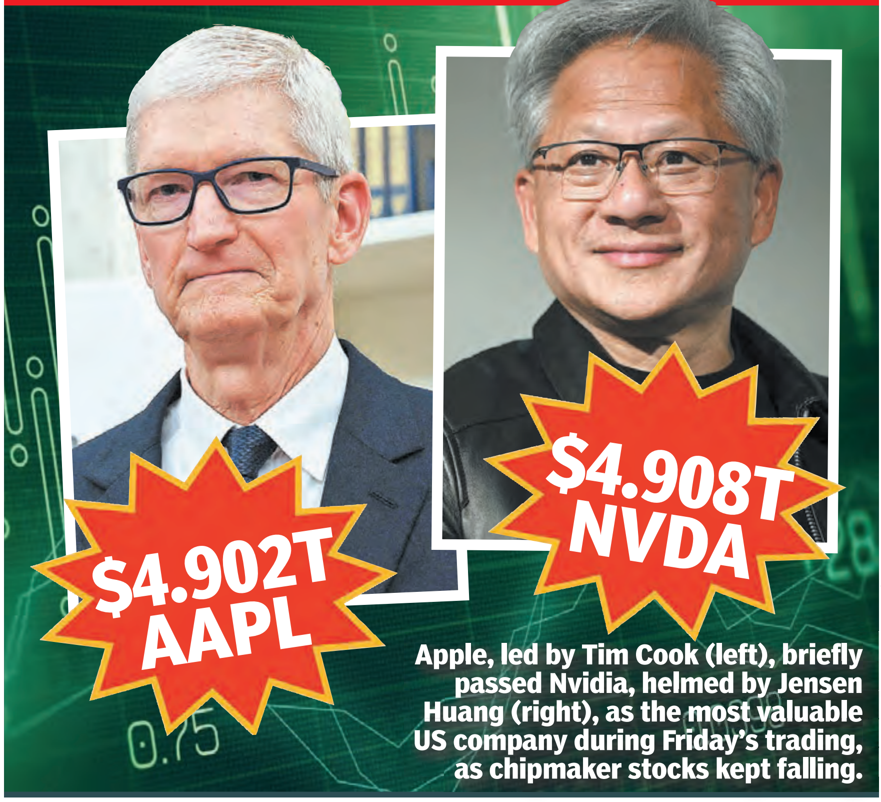
Back and forth



Apple, led by Tim Cook (left), briefly passed Nvidia, helmed by Jensen Huang (right), as the most valuable US company during Friday's trading, as chipmaker stocks kept falling.

Getty Images; Reuters, Adobe Stock

Bad chip-slip week for stox

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Major stock indexes fell Friday to wrap up a losing week, with shares of chipmakers plunging on mounting AI threats from China and renewed fighting in the Middle East.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 406 points, or 0.8%, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq both plunged more than 1%, as all three benchmarks ended the week in the red.

Apple on Friday briefly surpassed Nvidia as the most valuable US company as the iPhone maker's stock rose 0.1% while the chipmaker fell 2.2%. The market cap of Jensen Huang's Nvidia stood at $4.908 trillion compared to $4.902 trillion for Apple, led by CEO Tim Cook.

Apple last held the top spot in April 2025. The neck-and-neck competition shows investors are reconsidering their AI investments as Apple, long viewed as lagging the competition, appears to be catching up.

Meanwhile, Tesla founder Elon Musk lost his trillionaire status this week. His net worth slipped below $800 billion on Friday, according to Forbes — as shares of SpaceX were hammered, sinking more than 14% this week.

Mounting concerns over massive AI spending and the potential to create an "AI bubble" have fueled weeks of choppy tech stock trading — but the sell-off intensified Friday on reports that China is catching up to the US in the AI race.

Fresh rounds of air strikes between the US and Iran near the Persian Gulf also sent stocks on the decline this week, after President Trump said the ceasefire with Tehran was "over."

Brent crude oil prices jumped 4.6% Friday to settle at $88.10 a barrel while West Texas Intermediate crude rose by nearly the same percentage to $82.49. Both benchmarks surged more than 15% this week.

Kuwait said Friday that Iran attacked a power and water plant, while US Central Command said it had completed its sixth consecutive evening of strikes against Iran.

TAKING AI SHOT AT U.S.

Big Chinese leap

By THOMAS BARRABI

Chinese firm Moonshot has unveiled a new open-source AI model with capabilities similar to those of Anthropic and OpenAI — the latest sign that China is catching up to the US in the race to build advanced AI.

Dubbed Kimi K3, the large language model was trained on a massive 2.8 trillion parameters — the kernels of data that determine its responses to user questions, according to Moonshot. That would make it one of the largest AI models — if not the largest — ever released.

Moonshot, founded by Yang Zhilin, said its tests show the Kimi K3 was outperforming Anthropic's Opus 4.8 model and OpenAI's ChatGPT 5.5 when it comes to most coding tasks, the Financial Times reported. It is still less powerful than Anthropic's cutting-edge Fable model, which was briefly taken offline in June due to concerns that bad actors could misuse it.

As an open-source model, Kimi K3 will be available for anyone to download and is expected to be far cheaper to use than the closed-source models offered by CEO Dario Amodei's Anthropic and Sam Altman's OpenAI. For example, Moonshot's K2.6 model was about one-third as expensive as Opus 4.8 to use, according to the FT.

Kimi K3 was announced just weeks after China-based Z.AI released GLM-5.2, another open-source model with capabilities at or near those of leading American companies.

Closing the gap

As The Post has reported, experts have grown concerned that ultra-cheap Chinese models are a major threat to the shaky business models of US labs known for charging top dollar for the "tokens" needed to use their chatbots.

If Kimi K3 proves as useful in real-world environments as it did in benchmark testing, it could raise questions about the widely held belief that America has a 6 to 12 month lead on China for the development of "frontier" AI models.

Moonshot could also come under fresh scrutiny as US officials and AI executives warn about China's propensity to rip off technology through the use of unauthorized "distillation" — a technique in which a stronger model is used to train a weaker one.

In February, Anthropic publicly called out Moonshot and two other Chinese labs, Deepseek and Minimax, for allegedly using distillation to steal its AI technology. In June, Anthropic sent a letter to Congress detailing evidence that another Chinese tech giant, Alibaba, had distilled its AI models.

‘Med’dling Meta ax OK: judge

A federal judge on Friday rejected a bid by 26 employees of Meta Platforms to block the tech giant from laying them off while they pursue claims that they were targeted for job cuts by the company’s AI-powered tools because they have disabilities or took medical leave.

District Judge William Orrick in Oakland, Calif., in a written order said he would not stop Meta from carrying out the layoffs beginning July 22 while the merits of the workers’ novel legal claims are decided in private arbitration.

The judge said the workers could not show that losing their jobs amounted to the “irreparable harm” required to issue an emergency order blocking the layoffs.

A Meta rep declined to comment. The company, led by CEO Mark Zuckerberg (right), has denied wrongdoing and said layoff decisions were made by humans.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs in a joint statement said while Orrick denied their request, he also recognized that the lawsuit raises “serious questions” about Meta’s conduct.

Meta in May notified nearly 8,000 employees, about 10% of its global workforce, that they were losing their jobs as the company doubles down on its investments in AI. *Reuters*

CBS ‘tome’ bomb

Ex-exec book seen shredding News Division

By ARIEL ZILBER

Beware the ‘evil eye’

Bill Owens, a former ‘60 Minutes’ exec producer, is reportedly working on a book that will take big shots at CBS News Editor-in-Chief Bari Weiss (inset), among others. CBS lawyers are reportedly looking at options.

Mike Vitelli/BFA.com /Christopher Sadowski / Sportsfile via Getty

CBS BROA
CBS NEWS
60 MINUTES

Former “60 Minutes” executive producer Bill Owens is preparing a scorched-earth memoir about CBS News even as parent company Paramount continues paying out the remaining years of his multimillion-dollar contract under a separation agreement that included a non-disparagement clause.

The arrangement, which was reported by Puck News, has raised alarms inside Paramount and CBS, where executives and lawyers have discussed whether Owens’ book could violate the terms of his exit package.

No formal legal action has been taken.

A CBS News spokesperson declined to comment.

Owens’ memoir will accuse former Paramount controlling shareholder Shari Redstone of surrendering to political pressure, allege that corporate executives systematically interfered with “60 Minutes” and charge that senior management put merger politics ahead of journalism, according to Breaker Media, which first obtained the book proposal.

The former executive producer also targets Paramount Skydance boss David Ellison and CBS News Editor-in-Chief Bari Weiss, accusing them of politicizing the network.

Owens described Weiss in the proposal as “an opinion writer who has made a name for herself by having a lot of opinions,” according to Breaker.

Paramount agreed to honor the remaining years of Owens’ contract when he left the network, with the multimillion-dollar payments continuing annually, sources with knowledge of the arrangement told Puck.

Owens was also required to sign a non-disparagement agreement.

The apparent tension between those provisions and Owens’ public attacks has prompted scrutiny within the company.

CBS television chief George Cheeks and network attorneys have at least considered taking legal action over the planned book, though Paramount and CBS declined to comment to Puck. Owens also declined to comment.

Owens resigned from “60 Minutes” in April of last year, months before Weiss took control of CBS News.

Change atop Walmart

Walmart is shuffling the leadership atop its massive US business as the retailer’s new chief executive continues to build his team.

Kieran Shanahan, chief operating officer for Walmart US, will leave the role this week, the company said in an internal memo viewed by The Wall Street Journal. Shanahan, 45 years old, will be succeeded by Kyle Kinnard, currently COO for Walmart International.

There have been a series of top departures from the Bentonville, Ark.-based company in recent months.

The changes come after Walmart brought in John Furner as its new companywide CEO earlier this year, placing a company veteran with deep Arkansas roots in the top role. It also named new CEOs and key executives for each of its three major business units: the US, International and Sam’s Club. *Dow Jones*

JPM sex suit tossed

A New York state judge dismissed a lawsuit by a former JPMorgan Chase banker who in graphic terms said his former boss coerced him into sex and demanded his submissiveness, though the lawsuit is expected to be refiled in federal court.

Chirayu Rana, the former banker, will pay some legal fees of JPMorgan and his onetime colleague Lorna Hajdini as a condition of the dismissal, Justice Dakota Ramseur wrote on Thursday.

The dismissal, which Rana had requested, doesn’t affect Hajdini’s defamation countersuit against him. Her lawsuit remains in the state court in Manhattan.

Rana accused Hajdini of using her seniority to coerce him into nonconsensual sexual activity over several months. Hajdini said Rana’s malicious lies “wreaked havoc” on her life. *Dow Jones*

‘Report’ retorts ignored

The Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to move forward with a version of its proposal to make quarterly financial reports optional, despite being inundated with public comments that overwhelmingly oppose the idea.

The proposed rule-change, unveiled by SEC Chairman Paul Atkins in May, would give public firms the option to disclose their financial results twice a year, rather than on a quarterly basis. President Trump has long been a proponent of the idea.

The SEC asked for the public’s thoughts on the idea and received over 200,000 comments, a record number, sources told The Wall Street Journal. Many of them argued that it would harm investors and leave them with less information on which to make decisions.

At least 20,000 of the comments echoed an anonymous grassroots campaign that urges keeping reporting quarterly. Another 40,000 or so said something along the lines of how the proposal “prevents investors like me from accessing information about companies; lets companies hide behind closed doors; and allows fraud to fester.”

Among the few supportive letters were comments from Exxon Mobil and insurance brokerage Gallagher. *Dow Jones*

$100K for fast ‘Truth’

President Trump’s social media company discussed charging traders and investors as much as $100,000 a month for faster access to his Truth Social posts, the Financial Times reported Friday.

Trump Media & Technology Group, which owns Truth Social, didn’t respond for comment. The company on Thursday unveiled a paid-for, licensed data feed called “Truth API” to provide banks and trading firms “the fastest” access to posts from influential accounts. *Reuters*

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, pursuant to the County Government Law of Nassau County, the Nassau County Legislature will consider the below proposed ordinances ON MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026 AT 10 AM, IN THE PETER J. SCHMITT MEMORIAL LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, 1st FLOOR, THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501:

ORDINANCE NO. 40 – 2026 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 31-2019 SETTING FORTH THE COMPENSATION FOR POLL CHAIRS/CLERKS, ELECTION INSPECTORS AND ELECTION COORDINATORS PURSUANT TO §3-420 OF THE NEW YORK STATE ELECTION LAW. 175-26 (LE)
ORDINANCE NO. 41 - 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. 178-26 (OMB)
ORDINANCE NO. 42 - 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CORRECTIONAL CENTER. 179-26 (OMB)
ORDINANCE NO. 43 - 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - NICE YEAR 2026 OPERATIING BUDGET. 180-26 (OMB)

Copies of the proposed ordinances are on file and may be obtained in the Office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature during normal business hours BY ORDER of the Nassau County Legislature of the County of Nassau, New York.

Dated: JULY 16, 2026
Garden City (Mineola Post Office), NY

MICHAEL C. PULITZER
Clerk of the Legislature

The Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office orders a maximum occupancy of 251 people for the Peter J. Schmitt Memorial Legislative Chamber and an additional 71 people for the legislative antechamber. Attendees who will address the Legislature must submit a written slip to the Clerk's office staff. The Rules of the Legislature limit public comment to three minutes per person. At meetings of the full Legislature, members of the public may speak during the pre-calendar public comment period and during public hearings. At meetings of the Legislature's committees and prior to the call of the first committee, members of the public may speak and on agenda items only. Individuals may email the Clerk of the Legislature at LegPublicComment@nassaucountyny.gov to have comment included in the record of the Legislative meeting. The Nassau County Legislature provides accessibility and reasonable accommodation to its public meetings for the attendance and participation of individuals with disabilities. Anyone in need of assistance should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Legislature at 516.571.4252, the Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged at 516.227.7101 or TDD Telephone 516.227.8989. The Legislature streams every meeting live at http://www.Nassau CountyNY.gov/agencies/Legis/index.html.

- **CAREERS**
- **CAREER TRAINING**
- **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**
- **FINANCIAL SERVICES**
- **REAL ESTATE SERVICES**
- **MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**
- **PETS**
- **LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICE**

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NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life; blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at simoner451@outlook .com. God bless you.

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Historic night for Fever's Clark

Associated Press

FEVER	**110**
STORM	**107**

INDIANAPOLIS — Caitlin Clark scored a career-high 45 points and had 10 assists for the first 40-10 game in WNBA history, and the Indiana Fever beat Seattle 110-107 on Friday night.

Clark, who had four steals and two blocks, also became the fastest player in WNBA history to make 200 career 3-pointers, doing it in 74 games, breaking the previous mark of 81 games set by Katie Smith. Her 45 points were also a franchise record.

Kelsey Mitchell scored 30 points for the Fever (15-10) and Monique Billings added 16.

Dominique Malonga had 28 points and 14 rebounds for Seattle, which lost its fourth in a row.

CAITLIN CLARK

It appeared Flau'jae Johnson had a fast-break layup, but Clark hustled back and blocked the shot off Johnson and out of bounds with 54.9 seconds to play. Clark then hit a 3 from the left wing that made it 105-102 and made 4 of 4 from the free-throw line in the final 17 seconds to seal it.

Clark scored 10 points in a 12-4 run and capped the spurt with a 3-pointer that made it 49-32 with 7:28 left before halftime.

Clark added five points, five assists and two steals.

Well-rested Liberty visit busy Indiana

By MADELINE KENNEY

INDIANAPOLIS — Fever star Caitlin Clark was supposed to be on a minutes restriction for the first night of a back-to-back, Indiana coach Stephanie White said Friday.

Instead, Clark scored a career-best 45 points in 29 minutes in a victory over the Storm, one night before the Fever play host to the Liberty.

Clark's workload had been limited and carefully monitored because of a nagging back issue that flared up at the beginning of the season.

In 20 games prior to Friday, she was averaging 19.7 points, 4.1 rebounds and 7.7 assists.

The Fever also downgraded center Aliyah Boston to "out" with a lower right leg issue.

"I don't think it was anything from specifically the last game," White said of Boston. "I think it's just the compilation of games so to speak, and an inflammation. And it's a back-to-back, again, sort of prioritizing based on the schedule."

Asked if Boston would be playing had Friday not been a back-to-back, White said she wasn't sure.

"I would hope," she said. "It's again the collaboration with the medical staff and AB and us and understanding the big picture and making sure that we're smart."

The Fever are in the midst of a tough stretch of three games in four days, with the Liberty coming to town Saturday to punctuate this stretch.

LIBS NOTES

➤ **Satou Sabally** will be sidelined through the All-Star break with a concussion, though there's still no established timeline for her return, coach Chris DeMarco told reporters after Friday's practice.

"She's starting to feel better," DeMarco said. "She's progressing right now. We'll get her back on the court and go from there."

Sabally left the Liberty's June 23 win in Las Vegas and has been in concussion protocol since.

➤ **Leonie Fiebich** is out indefinitely with a left foot injury.

DeMarco said she "avoided serious injury" and didn't share any details of her issue. She doesn't have a target return date and didn't make the team's trip to Indianapolis.

mkenney@nypost.com

Golf

PGA/DP Tour- The Open Championship
At Royal Birkdale; Southport, United Kingdom; Purse: $17.8 million; Yardage: 7,223; Par: 70
Second Round

Lucas Herbert,	70-62	132	-8
Ryan Gerard,	67-67	134	-6
Jackson Suber,	65-69	134	-6
Cameron Young,	67-67	134	-6
Sam Burns,	73-62	135	-5
Bryson DeChambeau,	67-68	135	-5
Si Woo Kim,	68-67	135	-5
Bud Cauley,	68-68	136	-4
Thomas Detry,	67-69	136	-4
Alex Fitzpatrick,	69-67	136	-4
Tommy Fleetwood,	69-67	136	-4
Robert MacIntyre,	67-69	136	-4
Francesco Molinari,	67-69	136	-4
Jon Rahm,	69-67	136	-4
Scottie Scheffler,	68-68	136	-4
Matt Wallace,	69-67	136	-4
Ludvig Aberg,	71-66	137	-3
Daniel Brown,	66-71	137	-3
Pierceson Coody,	67-70	137	-3
Tyrrell Hatton,	69-68	137	-3
Cameron John,	70-67	137	-3
Shane Lowry,	69-68	137	-3
Victor Perez,	68-69	137	-3
J.J. Spaun,	70-67	137	-3
Corey Conners,	71-67	138	-2
Nicolas Echavarria,	71-67	138	-2
Chris Gotterup,	70-68	138	-2
Sungjae Im,	66-72	138	-2
John Keefer,	70-68	138	-2
Collin Morikawa,	68-70	138	-2
Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen,	72-66	138	-2
Patrick Reed,	72-66	138	-2
Adam Scott,	72-66	138	-2
Jordan L. Smith,	68-70	138	-2
Matthew Southgate,	69-69	138	-2
Sepp Straka,	68-70	138	-2
Michael Thorbjornsen,	70-68	138	-2
Jacob Bridgeman,	70-69	139	-1
Patrick Cantlay,	71-68	139	-1
MJ Daffue,	67-72	139	-1
Hennie Du Plessis,	70-69	139	-1
Ben Griffin,	69-70	139	-1
Kazuma Kobori,	70-69	139	-1
Hideki Matsuyama, J	72-67	139	-1
Rory McIlroy,	72-67	139	-1
Shaun Norris,	69-70	139	-1
John Parry,	71-68	139	-1
Andy Sullivan,	70-69	139	-1
Jesper Svensson,	73-66	139	-1
Nick Taylor, C	68-71	139	-1
Justin Thomas,	70-69	139	-1
Michael Brennan,	72-68	140	E
Laurie Canter,	69-71	140	E
Eric Cole,	76-64	140	E
Rickie Fowler,	71-69	140	E
Ryan Fox,	72-68	140	E
Max Homa,	71-69	140	E
Casey Jarvis,	73-67	140	E
Kurt Kitayama,	69-71	140	E
Eugenio Lopez-Chacarra,	70-70	140	E
Alex Noren,	71-69	140	E
Marco Penge,	72-68	140	E
Kristoffer Reitan,	69-71	140	E
Xander Schauffele,	71-69	140	E
Alex Smalley,	67-73	140	E
Sahith Theegala,	71-69	140	E
Josele Ballester,	71-70	141	+1
Keegan Bradley,	69-72	141	+1
Russell Henley,	70-71	141	+1
Kazuki Higa,	73-68	141	+1
Ryo Hisatsune,	68-73	141	+1
Naoyuki Kataoka,	73-68	141	+1
Brooks Koepka,	70-71	141	+1
Min Woo Lee,	70-71	141	+1
Jack McDonald,	70-71	141	+1
Marcus Plunkett,	70-71	141	+1
Aldrich Potgieter,	69-72	141	+1
Peter Uihlein,	73-68	141	+1

PGA/DP Corales Puntacana Championship
At Corales Golf Club; Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Purse: $4 million; Yardage: 7,670; Par: 72
Second Round

Todd Clements,	65-66	131	-13
Benjamin James,	67-66	133	-11
Gordon Sargent,	66-67	133	-11
Johannes Veerman,	66-67	133	-11
Alejandro Del Rey,	66-68	134	-10
Joe Highsmith,	68-67	135	-9
Blades Brown,	67-69	136	-8
Ivan Cantero Gutierrez,	65-71	136	-8
Stefano Mazzoli,	67-69	136	-8
Jacob Skov Olesen,	67-69	136	-8
Thomas Rosenmueller,	70-66	136	-8
Marcel Schneider,	70-66	136	-8
Filippo Celli,	67-70	137	-7
Joel Dahmen,	71-66	137	-7
Patrick Fishburn,	67-70	137	-7
Marcus Helligkilde,	69-68	137	-7
Max McGreevy,	71-66	137	-7
Aaron Wise,	71-66	137	-7
Zachary Bauchou,	71-67	138	-6
Christiaan Bezuidenhout, S. Africa...	69-69	138	-6

MLS

EAST	**W**	**L**	**D**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Nashville	11	1	3	36	32	11
Inter Miami CF	9	2	4	31	39	28
Chicago	8	4	2	26	27	16
New England	8	5	1	25	22	18
Red Bulls	6	5	4	22	25	32
Charlotte FC	6	6	3	21	24	23
Cincinnati	5	5	5	20	36	37
NYCFC	5	6	4	19	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	6	18	21	25
Columbus	4	7	4	16	21	23
CF Montréal	4	8	3	15	22	31
Toronto FC	3	6	6	15	22	29
Orlando City	4	9	2	14	23	44
Atlanta	3	10	2	11	14	24
Philadelphia	1	10	4	7	18	30

WEST	**W**	**L**	**D**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Vancouver	10	2	2	32	34	12
San Jose	10	3	2	32	34	15
Los Angeles FC	8	5	3	27	27	17
Real Salt Lake	8	4	2	26	26	19
FC Dallas	7	4	4	25	30	22
Seattle FC	7	4	3	24	18	16
Houston	7	6	1	22	19	23
Minn. United	6	5	4	22	18	22
LA Galaxy	5	6	5	20	22	25
St Louis City	5	6	4	19	19	22
Portland	5	8	2	17	27	29
San Diego FC	4	6	5	17	30	27
Colorado	5	9	1	16	25	24
Austin FC	3	7	5	14	19	31
Sporting K.C.	3	10	2	11	16	39

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Friday
Nashville 1, Atlanta 0
Los Angeles FC 3, LA Galaxy 0

Wednesday
NYCFC at Columbus, 7:30pm
Red Bulls at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Vancouver at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Chicago at Miami, 7:30pm
Toronto FC at New England, 7:30pm
Atlanta at Charlotte FC, 8:15pm
Seattle FC at Austin FC, 8:30pm
D.C. United at Houston, 8:30pm
Minnesota at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm
CF Montréal at Nashville, 8:30pm
San Diego FC at Colorado, 9:30pm
St Louis City at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
FC Dallas at Portland, 10:30pm
Orlando City at San Jose, 10:30pm

Saturday, July 25
Charlotte FC at **Red Bulls**, 6:30pm
Chicago at **NYCFC**, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Columbus, 7pm
Toronto FC at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Miami at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Atlanta at New England, 7:30pm
Nashville at Orlando City, 7:30pm
Seattle FC at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Austin FC at Houston, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Colorado at St Louis City, 8:30pm
FC Dallas at San Diego FC, 9:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
Salt Lake at Portland, 10:30pm
LA Galaxy at San Jose, 10:30pm

Friday's Crossword Answers

O	R	A	T	E	■	N	A	S	■	■
P	A	W	O	L	■	A	L	P	O	■
S	H	A	K	Y	■	R	E	I	N	S
■	I	K	E	■	A	V	E	N	U	E
■	M	A	N	A	E	A	■	E	S	P
■	■	■	■	A	R	E	■	■	■	■
A	S	L	■	R	O	Z	E	M	A	■
S	T	A	N	D	S	■	M	O	B	■
S	A	B	E	S	■	P	I	T	O	N
■	N	O	R	M	■	A	L	O	M	A
■	■	R	O	A	■	D	E	R	B	Y

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	56	40	.583	—	—	4-6	L-3	35-15	21-25
Yankees	54	43	.557	2½	+5½	5-5	L-1	23-21	31-22
Boston	48	48	.500	8	—	10-0	W-11	19-27	29-21
Baltimore	47	51	.480	10	2	7-3	W-5	28-25	19-26
Toronto	45	52	.464	11½	3½	4-6	L-3	24-26	21-26

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	51	45	.531	—	—	6-4	W-4	31-17	20-28
Cleveland	51	46	.526	½	+2½	6-4	W-4	24-22	27-24
Minnesota	49	49	.500	3	—	7-3	W-3	26-25	23-24
Detroit	45	52	.464	6½	3½	7-3	W-1	27-23	18-29
Kansas City	39	59	.398	13	10	4-6	W-1	22-26	17-33

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Texas	49	48	.505	—	—	5-5	L-1	24-22	25-26
Seattle	48	50	.490	1½	1	3-7	L-1	27-21	21-29
Houston	47	52	.475	3	2½	4-6	L-2	23-25	24-27
Athletics	41	56	.423	8	7½	0-10	L-10	19-29	22-27
Los Angeles	38	60	.388	11½	11	2-8	L-3	21-26	17-34

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

L.A. Dodgers 2, **Yankees** 1
Boston 10, Tampa Bay 0, 1st game
Boston 5, Tampa Bay 3, 2nd game
Atlanta 15, Texas 1
White Sox 12, Toronto 4
Minnesota 5, Cubs 2
Kansas City 7, San Diego 6, 10 inn.
Baltimore 3, Houston 2
Detroit 2, L.A. Angels 1
San Francisco 7, Seattle 0
Washington 23, Athletics 4
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, ppd.

Saturday

L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, 8:08
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1:10, 1st gm.
Minnesota at Cubs, 2:20
White Sox at Toronto, 3:07
Baltimore at Houston, 4:10
San Diego at Kansas City, 4:10
Tampa Bay at Boston, 4:10
Texas at Atlanta, 4:10
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 7:10, 2nd gm.
San Francisco at Seattle, 8:08
Washington at Athletics, 10:05
Detroit at L.A. Angels, 10:07

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	56	40	.583	—	—	5-5	W-2	28-18	28-22
Philadelphia	54	44	.551	3	+2	5-5	L-1	25-22	29-22
Miami	52	46	.531	5	—	6-4	L-4	31-20	21-26
Washington	49	49	.500	8	3	4-6	W-1	20-31	29-18
Mets	41	57	.418	16	11	5-5	W-1	21-28	20-29

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	60	37	.619	—	—	6-4	W-1	30-18	30-19
Chicago	54	43	.557	6	+2½	5-5	L-1	27-20	27-23
St. Louis	51	45	.531	8½	—	4-6	W-1	26-26	25-19
Pittsburgh	50	47	.515	10	1½	7-3	W-3	27-24	23-23
Cincinnati	44	52	.458	15½	7	4-6	W-1	22-28	22-24

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	62	36	.633	—	—	5-5	W-1	31-19	31-17
Arizona	49	48	.505	12½	2½	6-4	L-1	27-21	22-27
San Diego	48	49	.495	13½	3½	5-5	L-1	27-24	21-25
San Francisco	42	55	.433	19½	9½	6-4	W-3	22-25	20-30
Colorado	39	60	.394	23½	13½	3-7	L-3	22-26	17-34

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

L.A. Dodgers 2, **Yankees** 1
Atlanta 15, Texas 1
Milwaukee 2, Miami 1, 10 inn.
Minnesota 5, Cubs 2
Cincinnati 7, Colorado 2
Kansas City 7, San Diego 6, 10 inn.
St. Louis 5, Arizona 4
San Francisco 7, Seattle 0
Washington 23, Athletics 4
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, ppd.

Saturday

Mets at Philadelphia, 4:05
L.A. Dodgers at **Yankees**, 8:08
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1:10, 1st gm.
Minnesota at Cubs, 2:20
Cincinnati at Colorado, 3:10
Miami at Milwaukee, 4:10
San Diego at Kansas City, 4:10
St. Louis at Arizona, 4:10
Texas at Atlanta, 4:10
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 7:10, 2nd gm.
San Francisco at Seattle, 8:08
Washington at Athletics, 10:05

POST SU DOKU

Puzzles on Page 30

5	6	9	7	1	8	2	4	3
1	4	3	2	6	9	7	8	5
7	2	8	4	5	3	1	9	6
6	8	4	9	3	1	5	2	7
9	5	1	6	7	2	4	3	8
3	7	2	8	4	5	6	1	9
8	3	7	5	2	4	9	6	1
4	1	5	3	9	6	8	7	2
2	9	6	1	8	7	3	5	4

Solution to Very Easy #7,343

7	1	2	5	3	9	8	6	4
8	9	4	7	1	6	2	5	3
5	3	6	2	8	4	9	1	7
9	6	8	3	7	2	1	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	8	7	9	6
4	5	7	9	6	1	3	8	2
2	4	5	1	9	3	6	7	8
3	8	1	6	4	7	5	2	9
6	7	9	8	2	5	4	3	1

Solution to Difficult #7,133

Dodgers 2, Yankees 1

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.289
Pages cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.270
Freeman 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.287
Betts ss	3	1	0	0	1	0	.232
Muncy 3b	3	1	1	2	1	0	.260
Tucker rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.244
Hernández lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.244
Rushing c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.250
Edman 2b	3	0	1	0	0	2	.343
Totals	**31**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**10**	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	2	0	0	0	2	0	.234
Rice dh	4	0	2	0	0	0	.282
Goldschmidt 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.255
Schuemann pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Sánchez c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Bellinger lf-1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.254
Domínguez rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.235
Chisholm 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.223
Caballero ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.246
McMahon 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.215
Wells c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.153
Rosario ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.237
Totals	**31**	**1**	**6**	**0**	**3**	**8**	

Los Angeles	**000 000 200 —**	**2**	**5**	**1**
Yankees	**000 100 000 —**	**1**	**6**	**0**

E: Pages (2). **LOB:** Los Angeles 4, New York 6. **2B:** Edman (5), McMahon (8), Domínguez (9), Rice (16). **HR:** Muncy (18), off Cole. **RBIs:** Muncy 2 (42). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 2 (Rushing, Freeman); New York 2 (Bellinger, Domínguez). **RISP:** Los Angeles 0 for 4; New York 0 for 4.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sasaki	5.2	5	1	0	1	5	94	4.98
Dreyer, W, 4-1	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	21	2.92
Vesia, H, 16	1.0	1	0	0	2	0	12	2.20
Scott, S, 14-16	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.50

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cole, L, 3-5	6.0	4	2	2	1	8	103	3.93
Headrick	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	1.52
Cruz	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	23	2.20
Blackburn	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	10	2.17

T: 2:48. **A:** 46,450 (47,309).

Royals 7, Padres 6, 10 inn.

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	5	0	3	1	0	0	.281
Merrill cf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.216
Bogaerts ss	4	0	1	1	0	0	.224
Machado 3b	4	0	0	0	1	0	.201
Sheets lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Bowen lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.119
France 1b	3	2	1	1	0	1	.268
Cronenworth 2b	4	1	0	0	0	1	.190
Andujar dh	4	2	3	1	0	0	.268
Campusano c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.292
Song ph	0	1	0	0	0	0	.212
Fermin c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.152
Totals	**35**	**6**	**8**	**4**	**2**	**4**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	5	0	3	2	1	0	.242
Witt ss	4	0	0	0	1	2	.283
Caglianone rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.260
Tolbert pr-rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.370
Rojas ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Thomas cf	4	2	2	1	1	1	.238
Pasquantino 1b	4	2	1	0	1	1	.223
Perez dh	3	1	1	0	1	1	.210
Massey 2b	5	1	3	2	0	1	.267
Loftin 3b-rf	5	1	1	0	0	1	.244
Collins lf	5	0	1	1	0	1	.239
Totals	**40**	**7**	**13**	**6**	**5**	**9**	

San Diego	**000 020 001 3 —**	**6**	**8**	**2**
Kansas City	**010 001 010 4 —**	**7**	**13**	**2**

E: Bogaerts (4), Merrill (1), Massey (1), Erceg (1). **LOB:** San Diego 5, Kansas City 12. **2B:** Andujar 3 (20), Pasquantino (10), Jensen 2 (20). **HR:** France (12), off Lange; Thomas (8), off King. **RBIs:** France (34), Andujar (22), Tatis (36), Bogaerts (38), Thomas (32), Massey 2 (33), Collins (29), Jensen 2 (51). **SB:** Tolbert (11), Pasquantino (4). **SF:** Bogaerts. **S:** Song. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 3 (Campusano, Machado, Merrill); Kansas City 6 (Loftin 2, Pasquantino 3, Collins). **RISP:** San Diego 2 for 8; Kansas City 5 for 20.

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
King	5.0	4	1	1	2	4	97	3.34
Rodriguez, BS, 0-4	1.0	1	1	0	1	1	20	2.18
Morejon	2.0	2	1	1	1	1	23	3.46
Miller	1.0	2	0	0	1	3	16	0.89
Hart, L, 0-2, BS, 0-1	0.1	4	4	3	0	0	14	5.82

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lugo	6.0	4	2	1	2	3	90	4.39
Cruz	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	4.73
Schreiber	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	3.38
Lange, BS, 8-9	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	12	6.00
Erceg, W, 4-3	1.0	2	3	1	0	0	24	5.21

T: 3:01. **A:** 25,884 (38,427).

Red Sox 10, Rays 0, 1st game

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.318
Mesa rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.213
Aranda 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.294
Caminero 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.279
Vilade rf-2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.261
DeLuca cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.249
Simpson lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Williamson 2b-p	3	0	0	0	0	1	.249
Walls ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.215
Fortes c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Totals	**30**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**4**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	5	0	2	0	0	0	.266
Rafaela cf	5	1	1	1	0	1	.280
Abreu rf	4	0	1	0	1	2	.261
Durbin 3b	4	2	3	1	0	0	.235
Yoshida dh	5	3	3	1	0	1	.273
Gonzalez 1b	3	1	0	0	1	2	.214
Duran lf	3	1	1	3	0	1	.195
Narváez c	4	2	3	3	0	0	.203
Cheng ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.290
Totals	**37**	**10**	**15**	**10**	**2**	**8**	

Tampa Bay	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**3**	**1**
Boston	**020 106 10x —**	**10**	**15**	**0**

E: Fortes (7). **LOB:** Tampa Bay 5, Boston 7. **2B:** Walls (12), Yoshida (11), Rafaela (23). **HR:** Yoshida (4), off Jax; Narváez (3), off Roycroft. **RBIs:** Duran 3 (48), Narváez 3 (9), Yoshida (17), Cheng (5), Rafaela (40), Durbin (40). **SB:** Rafaela (13). **SF:** Duran. **Runners left in scoring position:** Tampa Bay 1 (Díaz); Boston 3 (Yoshida 2, Durbin). **RISP:** Tampa Bay 0 for 2; Boston 6 for 12.

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jax, L, 5-7	5.0	8	7	7	1	6	85	4.08
Roycroft	2.0	5	3	3	1	2	39	10.13
Williamson	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	16	0.00

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bennett, W, 5-3	6.0	1	0	0	1	3	65	2.35
Gamboa, S, 1-1	3.0	2	0	0	0	1	43	2.25

T: 2:19. **A:** 36,774 (37,755).

Brewers 2, Marlins 1, 10 inn.

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Hicks dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.289
Lopez ss	4	0	2	0	0	0	.336
Edwards 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.303
Stowers 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.235
Hernández lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.237
Conine rf	2	1	1	1	0	0	.272
a-Jiménez ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.211
Marsee cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.195
Mack c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.239
Sanoja 3b-rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Totals	**35**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**0**	**9**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	4	0	1	0	1	2	.243
Chourio lf	5	1	0	0	0	3	.278
Turang 2b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.263
Contreras c	2	0	0	0	3	0	.280
Bauers 1b	3	0	0	0	2	3	.265
Mitchell cf	4	0	2	1	1	2	.277
Pratt ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.247
b-Vaughn ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.309
Shewmake 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Frelick rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.236
Lara rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.294
Ortiz 3b-ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	.230
Totals	**34**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**8**	**13**	

Miami	**000 010 000 0 —**	**1**	**7**	**0**
Milwaukee	**000 010 000 1 —**	**2**	**6**	**0**

LOB: Miami 5, Milwaukee 12. **2B:** Lopez (27), Yelich (14). **HR:** Conine (6), off Henderson; Ortiz (4), off Alcantara. **RBIs:** Conine (13), Ortiz (23), Mitchell (45). **SB:** Hernández (6), Edwards (14), Ortiz (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 4 (Mack, Hernández, Stowers, Marsee); Milwaukee 5 (Mitchell, Contreras, Chourio, Pratt, Frelick). **RISP:** Miami 0 for 8; Milwaukee 1 for 10.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Alcantara	6.0	3	1	1	4	7	104	3.89
Faucher	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	4.20
Petersen	1.0	0	0	0	2	2	21	3.00
Fairbanks	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	24	6.60
Bachar, L, 1-1	0.2	1	1	0	1	2	20	3.53

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Henderson	5.0	3	1	1	0	4	73	2.97
Patrick	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	21	3.51
Ashby	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	3.49
Uribe	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	2.50
Megill	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	2.92
Yoho, W, 1-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.57

T: 3:12. **A:** 38,566 (41,700).

Red Sox 5, Rays 3, 2nd game

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.314
Aranda 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.291
Caminero 3b	4	2	2	1	0	0	.281
Vilade lf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.255
Mullins cf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.201
DeLuca rf	4	0	2	2	0	1	.254
Williamson 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.249
Feduccia c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Fortes ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Walls ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.216
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**8**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	3	0	1	1	1	0	.268
Rafaela cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.279
Abreu rf	4	2	2	3	0	0	.263
Contreras 1b	4	1	1	1	0	3	.285
Yoshida dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Jones ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.135
Durbin 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.239
Duran lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.193
Wong c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.283
Cheng ss	2	1	1	0	1	1	.303
Totals	**31**	**5**	**8**	**5**	**3**	**6**	

Tampa Bay	**201 000 000 —**	**3**	**7**	**0**
Boston	**301 100 00x —**	**5**	**8**	**2**

E: Duran (1), Durbin (6). **LOB:** Tampa Bay 5, Boston 5. **2B:** Rafaela (24), Seigler (7). **HR:** Caminero (29), off Rivera; Abreu 2 (13), off Englert; Contreras (21), off Englert. **RBIs:** DeLuca 2 (27), Caminero (60), Abreu 3 (46), Contreras (62), Seigler (7). **CS:** Durbin (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Tampa Bay 2 (Williamson 2); Boston 1 (Rafaela). **RISP:** Tampa Bay 1 for 2; Boston 1 for 2.

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Englert, L, 0-3	5.0	8	5	5	1	4	88	4.54
Kimbrel	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	20	4.66
Sulser	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	15	5.40
Booser	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1.50

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rivera	2.1	3	3	3	2	3	64	2.89
Weissert, W, 2-2	0.2	2	0	0	0	0	7	3.76
Morán, H, 2	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.68
Guerrero, H, 10	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	2.21
Whitlock, H, 17	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	12	2.12
Slaten, H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	5.40
Chapman, S, 20-22	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	2.12

T: 2:30. **A:** 34,255 (37,755).

Twins 5, Cubs 2

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.289
Jeffers c	4	1	1	3	0	1	.291
Bell dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.248
Clemens 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.239
Lewis 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.216
Lee 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.249
Roden rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.188
Martin ph-rf	1	1	0	0	1	1	.248
Keaschall cf	3	1	2	0	1	0	.262
Gray ss	2	1	0	0	0	1	.232
Kreidler ph-ss	2	0	1	1	0	0	.260
Totals	**33**	**5**	**7**	**5**	**3**	**10**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.288
Suzuki rf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.269
Busch 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.239
Bregman 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.239
Happ lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.221
Hoerner 2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.235
Conforto dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.243
Kelly c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.268
Swanson ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Totals	**31**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**9**	

Minnesota	**004 000 100 —**	**5**	**7**	**1**
Chicago	**100 001 000 —**	**2**	**6**	**1**

E: Clemens (2), Busch (3). **LOB:** Minnesota 4, Chicago 6. **2B:** Suzuki (15). **HR:** Jeffers (8), off Rea. **RBIs:** Larnach (33), Jeffers 3 (31), Kreidler (24), Busch (50). **SB:** Crow-Armstrong (25), Martin (10). **CS:** Lee (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 2 (Bell 2); Chicago 3 (Kelly, Conforto 2). **RISP:** Minnesota 3 for 6; Chicago 1 for 10.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ober, W, 7-3	5.1	5	2	2	2	7	88	4.32
Nance, H, 2	1.1	1	0	0	1	1	25	3.82
Rogers, H, 9	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	5.56
Morris, H, 14	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	14	3.26
Gómez, S, 12-12	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	22	3.43

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rea, L, 7-6	6.0	5	4	3	1	6	91	4.74
Pomeranz	0.1	1	1	1	2	0	21	5.79
Hollowell	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	8	2.61
Rolison	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	2.72
Ferguson	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	7	6.75

T: 2:48. **A:** 39,855 (41,363).

Orioles 3, Astros 2

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Rutschman c	2	1	1	0	1	0	.255
Ward lf	3	1	1	2	1	1	.256
Alonso 1b	3	0	0	1	1	2	.250
Basallo dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.245
Beavers rf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.227
Taveras ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.236
Cowser cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.215
Mayo 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.194
Holliday 2b	2	0	1	0	0	1	.215
Jackson ph-2b	1	0	0	0	1	1	.252
Totals	**31**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**13**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	3	2	2	0	2	0	.293
Alvarez dh	3	0	2	1	2	0	.321
Paredes 3b	3	0	1	1	1	1	.254
Allen pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Walker 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.234
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Wade lf	1	0	0	0	3	0	.242
Smith rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.215
Spence cf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.333
Vázquez c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Trammell ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Totals	**28**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**9**	**8**	

Baltimore	**001 000 020 —**	**3**	**5**	**0**
Houston	**101 000 000 —**	**2**	**6**	**0**

LOB: Baltimore 6, Houston 11. **2B:** Rutschman (19), Alvarez (18). **HR:** Ward (7), off King. **RBIs:** Alonso (66), Ward 2 (27), Alvarez (71), Paredes (50). **SB:** Mayo (2). **SF:** Paredes. **S:** Vázquez. **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 3 (Basallo 2, Henderson); Houston 3 (Walker 3). **RISP:** Baltimore 1 for 3; Houston 1 for 7.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kremer	4.0	4	2	2	3	5	83	4.15
Nunez	2.0	0	0	0	2	0	36	4.81
Wolfram	0.1	1	0	0	2	0	15	4.71
Sanders, W, 1-0	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	14	8.10
Kittredge, H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	16	4.15
Wells, S, 3-3	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	29	2.96

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lambert	6.0	3	1	1	3	10	104	3.03
Okert, H, 12	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	2.27
King, L, 2-3, BS, 6-10	1.0	2	2	2	0	1	17	3.27
De Los Santos	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	12	4.23

T: 3:13. **A:** 31,867 (41,000).

Braves 15, Rangers 1

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Foscue dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.284
Langford lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Osuna lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Nimmo rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Carter cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.188
Jung 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.294
Burger 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.237
Duran ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.268
Cauley cf-rf	3	1	1	0	0	1	.250
Díaz c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.269
Lopez 2b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.311
Totals	**32**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**7**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin c	4	2	3	5	1	0	.261
Bart c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.213
Albies 2b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.270
Mateo 2b	1	1	1	0	0	0	.244
Olson 1b	3	2	2	1	2	1	.270
Mederos p	1	0	1	2	0	0	1.000
Harris cf	6	1	2	3	0	0	.297
Dubón lf	5	0	2	1	0	0	.267
Smith dh-1b	3	2	1	0	2	1	.264
Riley 3b	5	2	2	1	0	0	.210
Farmer 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Jarvis ss	5	2	2	1	0	1	.314
Hicklen rf	4	2	1	0	1	1	.375
Totals	**42**	**15**	**19**	**15**	**6**	**5**	

Texas	**000 000 010 —**	**1**	**5**	**0**
Atlanta	**020 420 43x —**	**15**	**19**	**0**

LOB: Texas 4, Atlanta 10. **2B:** Nimmo (22), Cauley (1), Harris 2 (18), Hicklen (2), Jarvis (3), Mateo (6). **HR:** Baldwin (16), off Quantrill; Olson (26), off Quantrill; Riley (10), off Higashioka. **RBIs:** Lopez (13), Baldwin 5 (51), Albies (52), Olson (59), Jarvis (4), Harris 3 (56), Dubón (52), Riley (43), Mederos 2 (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 2 (Burger, Osuna); Atlanta 5 (Dubón 2, Olson, Harris 2). **RISP:** Texas 1 for 5; Atlanta 8 for 15.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Quantrill, L, 3-2	4.0	11	6	6	1	3	86	3.93
Teodo	1.2	3	2	2	2	1	43	10.80
Collyer	1.0	2	4	4	2	1	41	5.09
Peoples	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.08
Higashioka	1.0	3	3	3	1	0	22	27.00

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sale, W, 10-6	7.0	2	0	0	0	6	89	2.06
Mederos	2.0	3	1	1	0	1	34	1.29

T: 2:54. **A:** 40,147 (41,149).

White Sox 12, Blue Jays 4

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf	5	2	2	2	0	0	.289
Murakami 1b	4	1	1	0	1	1	.233
Vargas 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.245
Acuña pr-ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.242
C.Montgomery ss-3b	4	2	2	3	1	1	.223
Benintendi dh	2	1	1	0	0	1	.244
Grichuk ph-dh	2	1	0	0	1	0	.245
Teel c	5	0	1	1	0	3	.203
B.Montgomery rf	5	2	1	4	0	0	.229
Peters cf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.300
Meidroth 2b	4	2	2	1	0	0	.271
Totals	**39**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**3**	**8**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Clement ss	4	1	2	0	0	2	.298
Guerrero 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.262
Keys 1b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.188
Okamoto 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.237
Springer lf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.218
Clase lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.333
Kirk c	2	0	1	0	2	1	.209
Varsho cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Valenzuela dh	4	1	1	1	0	3	.241
Urías 2b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.286
Straw rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Totals	**34**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**4**	**9**	

Chicago	**050 030 400 —**	**12**	**12**	**0**
Toronto	**001 111 000 —**	**4**	**7**	**1**

E: Okamoto (12). **LOB:** Chicago 5, Toronto 9. **2B:** Teel (2), C.Montgomery (17). **3B:** B.Montgomery (1). **HR:** Antonacci (7), off Miles; Urías (2), off Kay; Springer (10), off Richards; Valenzuela (8), off Richards. **RBIs:** Teel (14), B.Montgomery 4 (16), Meidroth (32), Antonacci 2 (29), C.Montgomery 3 (56), Springer 2 (24), Urías (3), Valenzuela (21). **SB:** B.Montgomery (1). **SF:** Peters. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 3 (Murakami, Grichuk, B.Montgomery); Toronto 3 (Varsho 2, Clase). **RISP:** Chicago 4 for 15; Toronto 0 for 4.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kay	4.0	2	2	2	3	5	83	4.24
Richards	1.2	4	2	2	0	1	36	3.65
Domínguez	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.36
Schweitzer, W, 1-0	3.0	1	0	0	1	3	54	2.77

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miles, L, 4-2	4.0	6	6	6	0	4	60	3.52
Macko	1.0	2	2	2	2	2	22	5.03
Corbin	1.1	2	3	2	1	1	33	5.21
Fisher	0.2	1	1	1	0	0	6	3.59
Van Eyk	2.0	1	0	0	0	1	37	0.00

T: 3:12. **A:** 41,895 (39,150).

Reds 7, Rockies 2

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	5	2	4	1	0	0	.282
Stewart 1b	3	0	1	2	1	1	.257
Marte rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.195
Bleday lf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.243
Myers cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Steer rf-1b	4	2	2	3	0	1	.250
Suárez dh	4	1	2	1	0	1	.213
Stephenson c	4	0	1	0	0	3	.238
Friedl cf-lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.178
Arroyo 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Hayes 3b	4	1	0	0	0	0	.138
Totals	**35**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**3**	**9**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy cf-lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.301
Moniak lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.274
Carrigg ph-cf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.280
Goodman c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.251
Rumfield 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.295
Karros 3b	4	1	0	0	0	1	.259
Castro 2b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.264
Johnston dh	3	0	1	1	0	1	.301
Freeman rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Tovar ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.198
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**0**	**8**	

Cincinnati	**100 003 111 —**	**7**	**11**	**1**
Colorado	**000 010 100 —**	**2**	**6**	**1**

E: De La Cruz (7), Tovar (8). **LOB:** Cincinnati 5, Colorado 6. **2B:** Stewart (23), Suárez (11), Johnston (24). **HR:** Steer (15), off Herget; Suárez (12), off Herget; Steer (16), off Criswell; De La Cruz (16), off Criswell; Castro (8), off Singer. **RBIs:** Stewart 2 (67), Steer 3 (40), Suárez (36), De La Cruz (45), Johnston (40), Castro (38). **SB:** McCarthy (16). **SF:** Stewart, Johnston. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 2 (Suárez, Friedl); Colorado 5 (Freeman, Rumfield 3, Tovar). **RISP:** Cincinnati 1 for 7; Colorado 0 for 6.

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Singer, W, 4-9	7.0	4	2	2	0	6	96	4.56
Burke	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	19	2.96
Antone	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	2.17

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hughes, L, 0-1	5.1	5	2	2	2	6	82	3.14
Herget	0.2	2	2	2	0	1	14	4.21
Vodnik	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	12	5.52
Criswell	2.0	3	2	2	1	1	30	4.50

T: 2:27. **A:** 40,356 (50,144).

Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 4

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	1	2	1	1	0	.262
Herrera dh	4	1	0	1	0	1	.246
Burleson 1b	4	2	1	0	1	1	.273
Walker rf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.294
Nootbaar lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.259
Winn ss	2	0	1	3	1	0	.245
Church cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Fermín 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.265
Crooks c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.172
Torres pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.194
Pagés c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.212
Totals	**33**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**5**	**5**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.255
Perdomo ss	2	1	0	0	2	1	.240
Carroll rf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.252
Moreno c	4	1	2	0	0	1	.304
Kepler lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.205
Gurriel dh	3	0	0	1	0	1	.207
Arenado 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.240
Barrosa pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.186
Vargas 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.258
Tawa cf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.227
Totals	**33**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**3**	**8**	

St. Louis	**200 010 011 —**	**5**	**9**	**0**
Arizona	**011 000 020 —**	**4**	**8**	**1**

E: Marte (1). **LOB:** St. Louis 8, Arizona 6. **2B:** Moreno (15), Tawa (6). **3B:** Vargas (3). **HR:** Wetherholt (14), off Kelly; Tawa (4), off McGreevy; Carroll (14), off Gastelum. **RBIs:** Winn 3 (41), Wetherholt (37), Herrera (41), Gurriel (21), Tawa (16), Carroll 2 (47). **SF:** Winn, Herrera, Gurriel. **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 4 (Fermín, Walker, Church 2); Arizona 5 (Vargas, Marte 2, Carroll, Arenado). **RISP:** St. Louis 2 for 9; Arizona 0 for 9.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McGreevy	6.1	6	2	1	1	5	94	2.92
Soriano, H, 14	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	14	3.27
Gastelum, W, 1-0	1.0	1	2	2	1	1	18	9.82
O'Brien, S, 25-29	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	16	3.35

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kelly	5.0	4	3	1	2	3	87	5.20
Clarke	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	15	2.53
Ginkel	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	8	2.77
Morillo	1.0	1	1	1	1	1	24	3.05
Sewald, L, 2-5	0.1	2	1	1	1	0	17	4.46
Garcia	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	8	1.85

T: 2:49. **A:** 29,931 (48,359).

Tigers 2, Angels 1

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Vierling cf-rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.211
McGonigle 3b-ss-3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.280
Dingler c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.262
Outman pr-cf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.152
Torkelson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.206
Greene lf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.288
Valencia dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.417
Carpenter ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	0	.220
Lee 2b	4	0	1	2	0	2	.255
Malgeri rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.280
Keith ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.244
Rogers ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.174
McKinstry ss-rf-ss	3	0	0	0	0	3	.195
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**12**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	1	2	0	0	2	.237
Trout cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.237
Schanuel 1b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.273
Soler dh	2	0	0	0	1	2	.209
Meckler pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.307
Lowe lf	3	0	0	1	0	1	.205
Siri lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Adell rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.242
Grissom 2b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.251
Peraza 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Guzman 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.252
O'Hoppe c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Totals	**30**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**4**	**14**	

Detroit	**000 000 002 —**	**2**	**6**	**0**
Los Angeles	**100 000 000 —**	**1**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Detroit 6, Los Angeles 7. **2B:** Greene (20), Malgeri (2), Lee (7), Trout (14). **RBIs:** Lee 2 (17), Lowe (22). **SB:** Vierling (4), Outman (6). **CS:** Neto (9). **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 4 (McGonigle, Vierling, Valencia, Rogers); Los Angeles 5 (Guzman 2, Adell 3). **RISP:** Detroit 1 for 7; Los Angeles 0 for 8.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Melton	5.2	4	1	1	4	9	94	1.80
Montero, W, 6-5	3.1	1	0	0	0	5	43	3.22

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Detmers	6.0	4	0	0	0	7	86	4.16
Zeferjahn, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	3.80
Bachman, H, 14	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	23	4.04
Yates, L, 0-5, BS, 3-6	0.2	1	2	2	1	0	20	3.74
Natera	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.93

T: 2:40. **A:** 29,536 (45,517).

Giants 7, Mariners 0

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.328
Eldridge dh	5	1	1	2	0	2	.269
Schmitt 3b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.282
Devers 1b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.246
Ramos lf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.278
Lee rf	4	2	3	0	0	0	.307
Adames ss	5	1	1	4	0	2	.229
D.Gilbert cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Cavanaugh c	2	1	2	0	2	0	.265
Totals	**40**	**7**	**12**	**6**	**2**	**9**	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.216
Arozarena lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.283
Canzone dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.261
Raleigh c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.167
Naylor 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.253
Young 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.251
Raley rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.230
Robles cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.210
Emerson ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.197
Totals	**28**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**4**	

San Francisco	**000 021 400 —**	**7**	**12**	**1**
Seattle	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**2**	**2**

E: Adames (14), Emerson (6), Young (6). **LOB:** San Francisco 10, Seattle 4. **HR:** Eldridge (9), off B.Miller; Adames (16), off Davila. **RBIs:** Eldridge 2 (22), Adames 4 (41). **SB:** Schmitt (8). **CS:** Robles (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 5 (Eldridge 2, Schmitt, Arraez, Devers); Seattle 1 (Raleigh). **RISP:** San Francisco 1 for 7; Seattle 0 for 3.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Roupp, W, 7-8	7.0	2	0	0	3	2	97	3.98
Foley	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	0.00
Kilian	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	22	4.62

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
B.Miller, L, 4-4	5.2	7	3	2	1	6	91	2.27
Ferrer	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	14	2.92
Davila	1.0	4	4	4	0	0	25	3.54
Wilcox	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	4.00
Rucker	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	20	5.27

T: 2:37. **A:** 42,595 (47,929).

Nationals 23, Athletics 4

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood dh	5	2	1	2	1	4	.278
Vivas p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.236
Mead 3b	6	4	4	3	0	1	.257
Chaparro 1b	5	4	4	8	1	0	.220
Abrams ss	5	1	2	1	0	0	.277
Tena 2b	1	1	1	0	0	0	.246
Crews rf	5	2	1	1	1	3	.211
Ford c	5	3	2	3	1	2	.400
Lile lf	6	1	2	4	0	2	.247
Young cf	4	2	1	1	2	0	.224
Nuñez 2b-ss	6	3	3	0	0	1	.247
Totals	**48**	**23**	**21**	**23**	**6**	**13**	

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Cortes dh-p	4	0	1	0	0	1	.279
Wilson ss	3	1	1	0	0	1	.282
Williams ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.259
Soderstrom lf	3	1	1	2	0	2	.242
Thomas lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.202
Langeliers c	4	1	1	1	0	3	.257
Kuroda-Grauer 3b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.429
Butler rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.197
Walton 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.309
Bolte cf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.261
White 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Totals	**35**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**1**	**14**	

Washington	**003 146 405 —**	**23**	**21**	**1**
Athletics	**000 200 002 —**	**4**	**9**	**1**

E: Nuñez (12), Bolte (5). **LOB:** Washington 4, Athletics 5. **2B:** Mead 3 (16), Young (12), Abrams (18), Crews (6), Kuroda-Grauer (6), White (1), Bolte (7). **HR:** Chaparro (2), off Suarez; Ford (1), off Sterner; Chaparro (3), off Tur; Lile (11), off Cortes; Soderstrom (15), off Cavalli; Langeliers (22), off Vivas. **RBIs:** Mead 3 (47), Chaparro 8 (15), Young (32), Ford 3 (3), Wood 2 (66), Abrams (68), Lile 4 (48), Crews (19), Soderstrom 2 (44), Langeliers (47), Bolte (17). **SB:** Crews (6), Nuñez (35). **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 1 (Nuñez); Athletics 4 (Thomas, White, Walton, Bolte). **RISP:** Washington 13 for 17; Athletics 1 for 9.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cavalli, W, 6-4	6.0	4	2	2	0	9	95	3.78
Cornelio	2.0	2	0	0	1	5	47	6.75
Vivas	1.0	3	2	1	0	0	10	9.00

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jump, L, 3-5	3.2	4	4	3	2	8	87	3.78
Suarez	1.0	2	2	2	0	1	20	4.56
Sterner	0.1	4	6	6	2	0	30	6.12
Tur	2.0	7	6	6	1	2	47	27.00
Basso	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	10.13
Cortes	1.0	4	5	5	1	0	23	45.00

T: 3:13. **A:** 11,087 (14,014).

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	15	10	.600	—
Indiana	15	10	.600	—
Liberty	13	11	.542	1
Washington	12	11	.522	1½
Toronto	10	15	.400	5
Chicago	9	16	.360	6
Connecticut	7	18	.280	8

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	19	6	.760	—
Golden State	18	7	.720	1
Las Vegas	17	7	.708	1½
Dallas	16	8	.667	2½
Portland	11	14	.440	8
Los Angeles	10	14	.417	8½
Phoenix	8	18	.308	11½
Seattle	6	21	.222	14

Friday
Chicago 96, Los Angeles 82
Indiana 110, Seattle 107
Atlanta 111, Toronto 92
Connecticut 96, Phoenix 83

Saturday
Liberty at Indiana, 8pm
Portland at Minnesota, 8pm
Washington at Golden State, 8:30pm

Sunday
Los Angeles at Dallas, 1pm
Chicago at Atlanta, 4pm
Connecticut at Phoenix, 7pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	9	5	2	29	23	17
Washington	8	3	3	27	22	11
Portland	8	4	3	27	24	16
Gotham FC	8	3	3	27	16	8
Kansas City	8	6	1	25	23	22
Utah Royals FC	7	4	3	24	21	16
North Carolina	6	4	3	21	20	16
Orlando	6	7	2	20	21	20
Angel City	6	6	1	19	20	14
Seattle	5	6	2	17	13	16
Denver Summit FC	4	5	4	16	19	18
Boston Legacy FC	4	7	4	16	16	21
Houston	4	7	3	15	17	23
Bay FC	4	6	3	15	13	19
Chicago	4	10	0	12	8	28
Louisville	2	10	1	7	15	26

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday
San Diego 2, Kansas City 2, tie
Saturday
Seattle at **Gotham FC**, 12pm
Portland at Denver Summit FC, 2pm
North Carolina at Bay FC, 4pm
Angel City at Chicago, 6:30pm
Houston at Louisville, 8pm
Orlando at Utah Royals FC, 8:45pm
Sunday, July 19
Washington at Boston Legacy FC, 7pm
Friday, July 24
Bay FC at Houston, 8pm
Chicago at Orlando, 8pm
Gotham FC at Portland, 10pm

FIFA World Cup

Third Place Playoff Game
Saturday
France vs. England, 5pm
FINAL
Sunday
Spain vs. Argentina, 3pm

NBA Summer League Schedule

Friday
Dallas 110, **Knicks** 88
Sacramento 92, Charlotte 90
Cleveland 100, Chicago 91
Miami 101, Detroit 87
Utah 83, Portland 79
L.A. Clippers 128, Minnesota 120
Saturday
Boston vs. Orlando, 4:30pm
Philadelphia vs. Milwaukee, 5pm
Houston vs. Memphis, 6:30pm
Atlanta vs. Washington, 7pm
Golden State vs. L.A. Lakers, 8:30pm
Indiana vs. New Orleans, 9pm
San Antonio vs. Phoenix, 10:30pm

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
2 p.m.	Twins at Cubs	MLBN
4:05 p.m.	Mets at Phillies	SNY, 880 AM
5:30 p.m.	Rangers at Braves	MLBN
8:08 p.m.	Dodgers at Yankees	Fox, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
WNBA BASKETBALL		
8 p.m.	Liberty at Fever	CBS
MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP		
5 p.m.	3rd-Place Match: France vs. England	Fox, Telemundo
MEN'S SOCCER		
Noon	USL Championship: Louisville City at Pittsburgh Riverhounds	CBS
8 p.m.	USL League One: Westchester SC at Union Omaha	MSG
9 p.m.	Liga MX: Santos Laguna at Monterrey	Univision
11 p.m.	Liga MX: Club America at Queretaro	Univision
NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER		
Noon	Seattle Reign at Gotham FC	ABC
2 p.m.	Portland Thorns at Denver Summit FC	CBS
4 p.m.	North Carolina Courage at Bay FC	CBS
6:30 p.m.	Angel City FC at Chicago Stars	ION
8:45 p.m.	Utah Royals at Orlando Pride	ION
NBA BASKETBALL: SUMMER LEAGUE		
4:30 p.m.	Consolation Game: Celtics vs. Magic	Prime Video
5 p.m.	Consolation Game: Bucks vs. 76ers	ESPN, Prime Video
6:30 p.m.	Semifinals: Rockets vs. Grizzlies	Prime Video
7 p.m.	Consolation Game: Hawks vs. Wizards	ESPN, Prime Video
8:30 p.m.	Semifinals: Warriors vs. Lakers	Prime Video
9 p.m.	Consolation Game: Pacers vs. Pelicans	ESPN, Prime Video
10:30 p.m.	Consolation Game: Spurs vs. Suns	Prime Video
GOLF		
6 a.m.	DP World/PGA Tour: The Open Championship, 3rd Round	USA
7 a.m.	DP World/PGA Tour: The Open Championship, 3rd Round	NBC
Noon	DP World/PGA Tour: Corales Puntacana Champ., 3rd Round	Golf
4 a.m. (Sun.)	DP World/PGA Tour: The Open Championship, Final Round	USA
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS		
8 p.m.	PFL: Main Card, Austin, Texas	ESPN2
8 p.m.	UFC Fight Night: Du Plessis vs. Usman; Cannonier vs. Duncan	Paramount +
CFL FOOTBALL		
4 p.m.	Montreal Alouettes at Calgary Stampeders	CBSSN
AUTO RACING		
6 a.m.	Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix, Practice	Apple TV
10 a.m.	Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix, Qualifying	Apple TV
10 a.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Borchetta Bourbon Music City Grand Prix, Practice	FS1
11:30 a.m.	INDY NXT Series: Music City Grand Prix, Practice	FS1
12:30 p.m.	NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series: Faith Fest 250	FS1
2 p.m.	Supermotocross World Championships: Round 23	NBCSN
3 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Borchetta Bourbon Music City Grand Prix, Qual.	Fox
4:30 p.m.	INDY NXT Series: Music City Grand Prix, Qualifying	FS2
5 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Window World 450, In-Season Challenge - Round 4, Practice	truTV
6 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Borchetta Bourbon Music City Grand Prix, Final Practice	FS2
6:10 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Window World 450, In-Season Challenge - Round 4, Qual.	truTV
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	ATP Bastad: Semifinals	Tennis
6 a.m.	ATP Gstaad: Semifinals	Tennis
6 a.m.	ATP Umag: Semifinals	Tennis
6 a.m.	WTA Athens: Semifinals	Tennis
6 a.m.	WTA Iasi: Semifinals	Tennis
MEN'S LACROSSE		
2 p.m.	PLL: Carolina vs. Denver	ABC
MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL		
7:30 p.m.	Amarillo Sod Poodles at Springfield Cardinals	MLBN
BASKETBALL		
9 a.m.	EBYL Peach Jam	NBATV
Noon	TBT: The Ville at LA Familia, 1st Round	Fox
1:30 p.m.	3SSB Palmetto Road Championships	NBATV
SOFTBALL		
2 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Talons at Bandits	ESPN
4 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Spark at Blaze	ESPNU
RUGBY		
12:55 p.m.	World Junior Championships Final: France vs. South Africa	CBSSN
7:30 p.m.	2026 World Rugby Nations Cup: Spain at United States	CBSSN
HORSE RACING		
12:30 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
2 p.m.	Saratoga Live: The Diana Stakes	Fox
3 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
5 p.m.	Breeders' Cup Challenge Series: NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes	NBC
6 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
BEACH VOLLEYBALL		
2 p.m.	AVP: League Week 6	PIX11

The POST Line

MLB

Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Dodgers	-102-110	YANKEES
PHILLIES	$137-168	Mets
White Sox	-105-117	BLUE JAYS
Orioles	-105-116	ASTROS
Rays	-101-122	RED SOX
Tigers	$157-194	ANGELS
Reds	-105-117	ROCKIES
BREWERS	$110-134	Marlins
Cardinals	-101-121	D'BACKS
CUBS	$121-149	Twins
Padres	$103-125	ROYALS
GUARDIANS	$104-122	1st gm.-Pirates
Rangers	-105-117	BRAVES
MARINERS	$110-134	Giants
ATHLETICS	$106-129	Nationals

Home team in CAPS

WNBA

Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Liberty	1.5 (175.5)	FEVER
LYNX	13.5 (174.5)	Fire
VALKYRIES	8.5 (146.5)	Mystics

FIFA World Cup

Saturday- 3rd-Place Match

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
France	$150-220	England

game held in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Sunday- Final

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Spain	$125-165	Argentina

game held in East Rutherford, N.J.

NBA Summer League

Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Magic	1.5 (188.5)	Celtics
Bucks	2.5 (186.5)	76ers
Grizzlies	5.5 (186.5)	Rockets
Hawks	1.5 (185.5)	Wizards
Warriors	1.5 (180.5)	Lakers
Pelicans	1.5 (185.5)	Pacers
Suns	2.5 (182.5)	Spurs

all games held in Las Vegas

CFL

Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Alouettes	1.5 (63.5)	STAMPEDERS
Argonauts	5.5 (55.5)	TIGER-CATS

STITCHES

Fly the W! Cubs win!

Christmas in July! The Twins' Taj Bradley is 3-0 this month, allowing just four runs in those 19 innings while fanning 27. Minnesota is at Wrigley Field. The Cubs' Matthew Boyd has won three in a row as well, but his good fortune runs much deeper. Boyd has given up nine runs in his last 27 innings. He's lost once from nine starts, and that was in March. Good matchup. We will play $50 on Boyd and the Cubs.

-$

Heavyweights went toe-to-toe at Yankee Stadium. The two-time reigning World Series champion Dodgers — the best team money can buy — slipped past the Yankees 2-1. Featherweight Roki Sasaki allowed one run over 5 $^{2}/_{3}$ innings. The run held up until Max Muncy drilled a Gerrit Cole fastball into the "unhealthy, smoky" air and put L.A. on top to stay. Back-to-back wins. Down -166 smokinjoefraziers.

stitches@nypost.com

MMA

UFC Fight Night: Du Plessis vs. Usman, Saturday in Oklahoma City

NAME	ODDS	NAME	ODDS	NAME	ODDS
Dricus Du Plessis	-218	Tommy McMillen	-166	Ezra Elliot	+100
vs. Kamaru Usman	+180	vs. Alberto Montes	+140	vs. Damien Anderson	-120
Jared Cannonier	+310	Austin Bashi	-115	Alden Coria	-1100
vs. Christian Leroy Duncan	-395	vs. Jose Miguel Delgado	-105	vs. Stewart Nicoll	+700
Chase Hooper	-375	Jean-Paul Lebosnoyani	+154	RJ Harris	+110
vs. Mitch Ramirez	+295	vs. Seokhyeon Ko	-185	vs. Alvin Hines	-130
Tabatha Ricci	+370	Levi Rodrigues Jr.	-155	Anna Melisano	+470
vs. Fatima Kline	-485	vs. Felipe Franco	+130	vs. Dione Barbosa	-650

PFL Austin: Eblen vs. Kasanganay 2, Saturday in Austin, Texas

NAME	ODDS	NAME	ODDS	NAME	ODDS
Johnny Eblen	+600	Jesus Pinedo	-1650	Mia Grawe	+240
vs. Impa Kasanganay	+420	vs. Joey Ruquet	+950	vs. Ashley Thiner	-330
Lewis McGrillen	-360	Biaggio Ali Walsh	+340	Jackson Glass	-1750
vs. Rafael do Nascimento	+260	vs. Gamid Khizriev	-500	vs. Zak Flessas	+850
Caolan Loughran	+142	Andrea Vazquez	+325	Victoria Alba	+180
vs. Julio Arce	-170	vs. Aleksandra Savicheva	-475	vs. Borena Tsertsvadze	-218

TOP PLAY

More big summer stats in Lakers-Warriors semi

By ERICH RICHTER

Back to Sin City as Las Vegas Summer League action continues with the Lakers facing the Warriors on Saturday.

NBA summer league this year has provided us with some entertainment and concludes Sunday, though we still have the semifinals to get through Saturday.

The Lakers have been among the favorites to win this title for the last week or so, but they find themselves as a pick 'em with the Warriors (-115, Bet365).

Golden State has a strong summer league roster led by Yaxel Lendeborg, fresh off Michigan's run to the national championship in the spring.

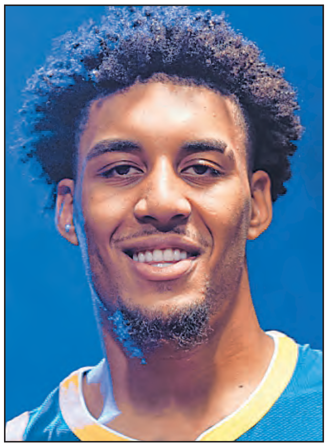
The Lakers are led by Arthur Kaluma, an undrafted free agent out of Texas who has scored 20.3 points per game while shooting an insane 63.9 percent from the field.

They also have first-round pick Cameron Carr, who is a critical piece for the Lakers to develop considering they've traded all of their first-rounders for the foreseeable future.

Los Angeles has been an underdog in four straight games, winning them all, and has scored at least 88 points in each.

Golden State has been a favorite of at least 3.5 points in its last four summer league games, though the Warriors lost two of those.

Their offense is electric, averaging 93.8 points in those contests, with at least 85 points scored.


YAXEL LENDEBORG

The Warriors are not the most defensively savvy squad, but they boast legitimate talent — as do the Lakers.

Given the amount of points these two teams average, the Over of 180.5 is absolutely enticing considering you'd need the two teams to score at least 90 points, which both teams are averaging in their last four games.

The Over has cashed in all of the Warriors' games, and I'll take it to hit again.

I'll also take a stab at Lendeborg to score Over 13.5 points, a number he has cleared in all but one contest in Las Vegas.

THE PLAYS: Lakers-Warriors Over 180.5 total points (-105, DraftKings); Yaxel Lendeborg Over 13.5 total points (-115, Underdog/FanDuel).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026		*REC	'26 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA		W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Mets	Manaea (L)		2-4	4.56	2-4	0-0	3.38	2-3	1-2	17.2	3.57
Phillies	Luzardo (L)	(4:05pm)	8-4	3.51	13-6	0-0	1.80	6-2	2-0	18.0	1.00
Pirates	Jones (R)	Game 1	1-1	4.37	5-3	—	—	—	0-0	14.2	2.45
Guardians	Williams (R)	(1:10pm)	10-4	3.81	13-6	—	—	—	1-0	16.2	3.78
Twins	Bradley (R)		9-3	3.59	12-6	0-0	0.00	1-1	3-0	19.0	1.89
Cubs	Boyd (L)	(2:20pm)	—	—	—	—	—	9-8	3-0	17.1	3.63
Padres	Canning (R)		1-7	6.47	2-8	0-0	0.00	2-1	0-2	14.0	7.07
Royals	TBD	(4:05pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rangers	Gore (L)		5-8	4.63	9-11	0-1	4.91	3-3	0-2	14.0	8.36
Braves	Murphy (R)	(4:10pm)	0-1	2.25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pirates	Ashcraft (R)	Game 2	9-3	3.49	13-6	—	—	—	2-0	16.2	5.94
Guardians	Cantillo (L)	(7:10pm)	8-4	3.56	14-6	—	—	—	2-1	15.0	1.80
Dodgers	Sheehan (R)		4-6	4.81	8-9	—	—	0-0	1-1	14.2	2.45
Yankees	Weathers (L)	(8:08pm)	3-7	4.15	8-10	—	—	0-3	0-2	11.0	5.73
Giants	Webb (R)		5-7	3.86	5-11	0-0	0.00	0-1	1-2	17.0	6.35
Mariners	Woo (R)	(8:08pm)	7-6	4.23	9-9	0-0	6.00	1-0	1-1	15.1	5.87
Nationals	Littell (R)		7-6	4.90	7-5	—	—	0-1	1-2	11.2	8.49
Athletics	Ginn (R)	(10:05pm)	7-6	3.67	11-7	—	—	0-0	1-2	14.1	6.91
White Sox	Martin (R)		9-4	3.41	12-6	1-0	0.00	1-0	0-1	12.2	4.97
Blue Jays	Bieber (R)	(3:07pm)	0-1	7.64	1-3	0-0	0.00	8-5	0-1	14.0	7.07
Orioles	Rogers (L)		6-7	4.48	8-9	1-0	1.29	1-0	2-0	17.1	1.04
Astros	Arrighetti (R)	(4:10pm)	7-5	4.50	9-6	0-1	3.18	1-1	0-2	13.0	11.77
Rays	Seymour (L)		6-2	4.59	4-2	0-0	2.25	1-0	2-1	14.2	5.52
Red Sox	Sandoval (L)	(4:10pm)	0-0	2.08	1-0	0-0	0.00	0-3	0-0	11.2	3.09
Tigers	Skubal (L)		5-5	3.09	7-6	0-0	0.00	1-1	2-1	16.0	2.25
Angels	Rodriguez (R)	(10:07pm)	3-2	7.55	3-4	1-0	1.80	2-0	1-0	13.0	4.85
Reds	Lowder (R)		3-6	4.91	5-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-3	15.2	7.47
Rockies	TBD	(3:10pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marlins	Meyer (R)		9-1	2.58	14-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	18.0	1.50
Brewers	Drohan (L)	(4:10pm)	4-3	3.09	5-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	18.0	3.00
Cardinals	May (R)		5-6	4.55	9-9	1-1	2.13	2-2	0-0	9.1	6.75
D'Backs	Pfaadt (R)	(4:10pm)	3-1	4.70	5-1	1-0	2.13	1-0	3-0	15.2	1.72

* **REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 18	SUN July 19	MON July 20	TUE July 21	WED July 22
	Dodgers 8:08 Fox 660 AM 101.9 FM	Dodgers 7:20 NBC/Peacock 660 AM 101.9 FM	Pittsburgh 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Pittsburgh 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Pittsburgh 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Philadelphia 4:05 SNY 880 AM	Philadelphia 1:35 SNY 880 AM	Milwaukee 7:40 SNY 880 AM	Milwaukee 7:40 SNY 880 AM	Milwaukee 2:10 SNY 880 AM
	Indiana 8:00 CBS	NO GAME	Dallas 8:00 My9	NO GAME	Chicago 7:00 Fox 5

Wednesday		Wednesday		Today	
	Philadelphia Union 7:30 Apple TV		Columbus Crew 7:30 Apple TV		Seattle Reign Noon ABC

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Red Sox sweep Rays in doubleheader

Wilyer Abreu homered twice, All-Star **Willson Contreras** went deep in his first game back from a five-game suspension, and the Red Sox extended their winning streak to 11 games with a 5-3 victory over the Rays on Friday night in Boston to sweep a doubleheader.

The streak is the longest for the Red Sox since Sept. 15-25, 2016, and Boston (48-48) moved to .500 for the first time since its second game of the season. In the opener, the Red Sox beat the Rays 10-0 behind six sharp innings from rookie **Jake Bennett**.

● In Toronto, **Braden Montgomery** matched his career-high with four RBIs, and the White Sox extended their winning streak to four with a 12-4 win over the Blue Jays.

● In Atlanta, **Drake Baldwin**, **Matt Olson** and **Austin Riley** all homered and **Chris Sale** pitched seven scoreless innings to lead the Braves to a 15-1 win over the Rangers.

● In Milwaukee, **Garrett Mitchell**'s two-out single up the middle in the 10th inning scored automatic runner **Jackson Chourio** from second, and the Brewers beat the Marlins 2-1 to snap a three-game skid.

● In Kansas City, Mo., **Carter Jensen** hit a two-run single to cap a four-run rally in the 10th inning that gave the Royals a 7-6 victory over the Padres.

● In Houston, **Taylor Ward** hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning, and the Orioles beat the Astros 3-2 to extend their season-best win streak to five games.

NFL: Cardinals exec Gold suspended

The NFL has suspended Cardinals personnel executive **Ryan Gold** indefinitely for violating the league's gambling policy.

The league said Friday that its investigation determined that Gold provided confidential, non-public inside information regarding 2026 draft selections by the Cardinals before the picks were announced, and Gold also participated in parlay bets on NFL and college games. The league didn't say who Gold had provided with the information.

● The Titans will induct **Chris Johnson**, the sixth man in NFL history to run for 2,000 yards in a season, into their Ring of Honor during halftime of their regular-season opener Sept. 13. The Titans announced the honor Friday following Johnson's announcement June 29 on ABC's "Good Morning America " that he was diagnosed with ALS, the fatal nervous system disease a year earlier.

ETC.: Flyers agree to deal with Drysdale

The Flyers have agreed to terms with defenseman **Jamie Drysdale** on a four-year contract worth $26 million. Drysdale will count $6.5 million against the salary cap through the 2029-30 NHL season. The 24-year-old Drysdale had a career-high eight goals and 32 points last season.

● In Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, **Todd Clements** birdied four of the last six holes for a 6-under 66 and a two-stroke lead in the windy Corales Puntacana Championship

ODDS & ENDS

WORLD CUP
Saturday
Third-place match
France vs. England

3-WAY BETTING (90 minutes plus stoppage time)	ODDS
France	-115
Draw	+280
England	+280

TOTAL GOALS (including extra time)	ODDS
Over 3.5	-104
Under 3.5	−118

BOTH TEAMS SCORE (including extra time)	ODDS
Yes	-280
No	+205

ANYTIME GOAL	ODDS
Kylian Mbappé (FRA)	-150
Harry Kane (ENG)	+110
Jean-Philippe Mateta (FRA)	+125
Marcus Thuram (FRA)	+135
Ousmane Dembélé (FRA)	+155
Ivan Toney (ENG)	+165
Ollie Watkins (ENG)	+175
Michael Olise (FRA)	+195
Bradley Barcola (FRA)	+200
Désiré Doué (FRA)	+200
Jude Bellingham (ENG)	+220

METHOD OF VICTORY	ODDS
Either team in penalty shootout	+550
Either team in extra time	+700
France in extra time	11/1
France in penalty shootout	11/1
England in penalty shootout	12/1
England in extra time	19/1

WNBA
Liberty at Fever
Saturday

MONEYLINE	ODDS
Liberty	-134
Fever	+110

WIN MARGIN	ODDS
Liberty 1-10	+182
Liberty 11+	+280
Fever 1-10	+210
Fever 11+	+420

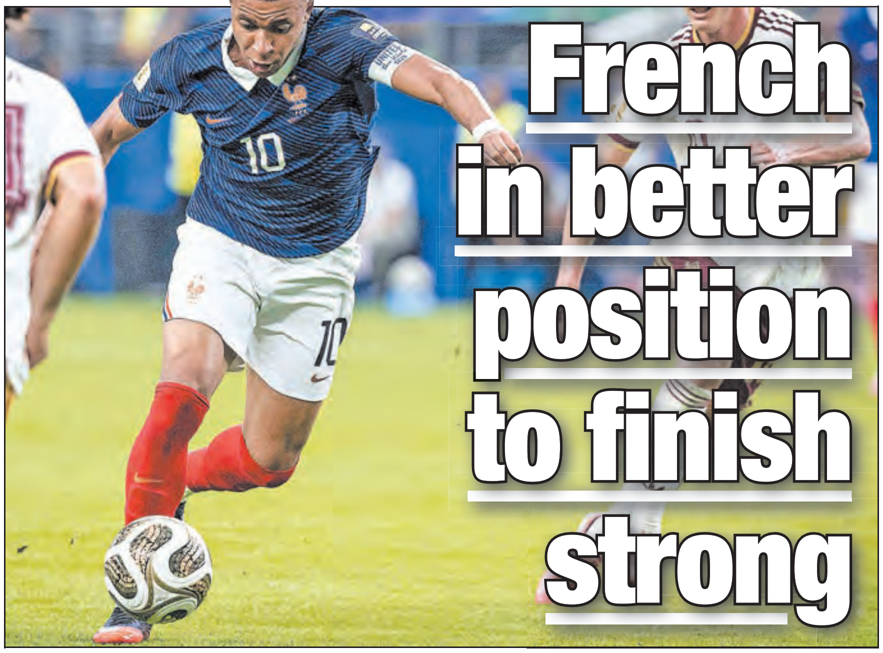
LIBERTY PLAYER POINTS	O/U
Breanna Stewart	20.5
Sabrina Ionescu	16.5
Jonquel Jones	14.5

LIBERTY PLAYER REB.	O/U
Jonquel Jones	9.5
Breanna Stewart	7.5
Sabrina Ionescu	3.5

LIBERTY PLAYER ASSISTS	O/U
Sabrina Ionescu	4.5
Breanna Stewart	2.5

LIBERTY PLAYER MADE 3S	O/U
Sabrina Ionescu	2.5
Jonquel Jones	1.5

BET SMART



French in better position to finish strong

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KYL-LER INSTINCT: Kylian Mbappé and France are Sean Treppedi's choice to win Saturday's World Cup third-place match on the 90-minute, three-way line.

By SEAN TREPPEDI

Territory, sovereignty and royal succession: The French and English have battled over some of history's highest stakes.

Add a bronze medal to that list Saturday.

The World Cup's consolation prize is not what many expected France to be playing for when it opened as tournament favorites wielding soccer's biggest game breaker. Alas, Lionel Messi is not ready to cede that claim to Kylian Mbappé.

That was crystal clear when Messi engineered a fourth consecutive knockout-round comeback against England by assisting the equalizer in the 85th minute before setting up Lautaro Martínez's stoppage-time winner to propel Argentina back into the final to defend its title.

With that pair of assists, he leapfrogged Mbappé as the new odds-on favorite in the Golden Boot market — even though they remain tied with eight goals apiece. Mbappé, who has scored at least one goal in five of seven games, remains within reach for the award. A goal or two assists against England would put him in position to win, provided Messi fails to produce anything in the final.

The only two matches in which Mbappé failed to find the scoresheet came against Spain — a result that can be excused against the tournament's most dominant possession side — and Norway. Even without a goal from its superstar, France's depth carried the load, as his teammates responded with a 4-1 demolition of the Norwegians.

That depth makes the French a heavy favorite over the English in bookmakers' view: Les Bleus are -215 to win the match and still juiced to -115 to do so in 90 minutes.

After five weeks of demanding tournament soccer, fresh legs are going to be critical, and France's replacements boast the international edge in Rayan Cherki, N'Golo Kante, Ibrahima Konate and Warren Zaire-Emery.

The contrast in emotional momentum is heavy. It'll be tough for the Three Lions to pull their morale out from the dumps after letting the semifinal slip through their fingers. France's motivation not only pertains to Mbappé's accolades but also Didier Deschamps, who will be stepping down from coaching France following this match after 14 historic years.

Deschamps hasn't needed to rely on constant pressure; he's built a system that can win on defensive structure and a punishing counterattack. It's worked across the board as France leads the World Cup in expected goals at 14.6, fueled by a tournament-leading number of big chances created.

This is despite being ranked 10th in possession — a department in which Les Blues are still three percentage points better than England.

On the defensive front, France had won seven straight matches before Spain and navigated the knockout stage with three consecutive clean sheets against Sweden, Paraguay and Morocco.

England's Thomas Tuchel doesn't have the same trust right now. He's been lambasted over the last few days for the defensive approach he took against Argentina after his side took a 1-0 lead. Dropping back allowed the Argentines to apply constant pressure instead of forcing them to worry about England's pace on the counterattack. Tuchel's substitutions left England without an attacking outlet once Argentina equalized. With Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham isolated, they were exposed.

This all was just 72 hours ago while France has had an extra day of rest, so backing Les Bleus on the 90-minutes, three-way betting line at -115 is a worthy move.

OPEN SEASON

LAD HANDLING: Tommy Fleetwood, the pride of Southport, acknowledges the crowd on 18 as he finishes his day at 4-under par, four shots off the lead. Reuters

By MARK CANNIZZARO

Second round crams in years worth of storylines at Birkdale

SOUTHPORT, England — There's not a lot more you could have asked for from a British Open entering the weekend than what the 154th has delivered through two rounds at Royal Birkdale on its thirsty, scorched-earth, browned-out links.

There were records tied, there was salty controversy, there were moves up the leaderboard made by big-name players and there is local boy "Tommy Lad" in contention.

There were a pair of 62s posted in Friday's second round — tying the low score in major championships — by Lucas Herbert, who leads the tournament at 8-under par, and Sam Burns, who went from 3-over to 5-under in a day.

There was fiery controversy with Bryson DeChambeau, who'd just walked off the course at 7-under, in second place and in the final pairing for Saturday's third round, assessed a two-stroke penalty for a rules infraction that was caught on TV.

The R&A rules officials determined that DeChambeau improved his lie in the high fescue grass to the right of the fifth hole, which he'd bogeyed. The two-shot penalty gave him a triple-bogey 7 on the hole and left him at 5-under and in a tie for fifth.

Cam Young, the pride of Sleepy Hollow Country Club and in the midst of his finest year as a pro, quietly but confidently sits in second place at 6-under, tied with first-round leader Jackson Suber and Ryan Gerard, after shooting a second consecutive 67 thanks to a birdie-birdie finish on 17 and 18.

Young, who nearly ran down winner Cam Smith at the 2022 British Open with a final-round 65, loves links golf. It shows.

His confidence, too, is at an all-time high, having won two huge tournaments already this year, highlighted by his Players Championship triumph in March.

Some of the game's biggest stars are also lurking.

World No. 1 and defending champion Scottie Scheffler has methodically crept his way up the leaderboard, standing at 4-under.

Rory McIlroy, ranked No. 2 in the world, also is not going away, rebounding from his opening-round 72 with a 67 on Friday to stand at 1-under.

Jon Rahm, the top player on LIV Golf, got himself to 4-under.

And then there's local favorite, Southport native Tommy Fleetwood, aka Tommy Lad and the "Son of Southport." He had the galleries buzzing as he got to 4-under, very much in this championship.

The stars of Friday's play clearly were Herbert and Burns.

Herbert chased the major championship record-low round of 61 and nearly got there before faltering on his final two holes and settling for a 62 and a tie of the record.

Burns holed out from a greenside bunker on 18 to get his 62.

After his round, Herbert was asked if he ever dreamed about shooting a round like that in a major championship.

"Yeah, I think so," he said. "It's two worlds apart, though, to have dreams and then to have even a glimpse of it sort of come to reality. Dreams of winning the Open Championship for sure, and I'm in a great position to do that through two rounds. There's still a lot of golf to go and a lot of work to do.

"The dream is, I would love to tick off more than shooting 62 [and win the Open]. I've got a great opportunity. I'm looking forward to getting after it on the weekend."

So, too, is Scheffler.

"Where I want to be on the leaderboard is the top at all times, every time, for the rest of time," Scheffler said. "I just want that on the record. For the rest of time, top of the leaderboard is good."

Then he added, "It's not the worst position. All I can do is continue to give myself opportunities. That was kind of what I told myself today. It's kind of like just continue to knock on the door, continue to give myself opportunities. If I continue to strike it like I did today and yesterday over the next couple days, I'll be in a good spot."

McIlroy feels the same way. He began the championship Thursday with a frustrating 2-over 72 but sounded unusually upbeat afterward because he liked the way he was hitting it.

On Friday, he backed that optimism up with a 3-under 67 to climb back into red numbers at 1-under.

"Get off to a decent start [Saturday]," McIlroy said of his plan. "There's a couple of guys up there, this will be sort of their first experience of playing in the lead at a major championship on the weekend. There's obviously some that are very experienced at it, like Cam and like Sam as well.

"I think if I can get off to a decent start, be 4- or 5-under for the tournament, I'll be right in it."

By MARK CANNIZZARO

Hometown hero poised for Claret Jug chase

SOUTHPORT, England — The "Son of Southport" is in position to win his dream British Open in his hometown.

Tommy Fleetwood, aka "Tommy Lad," as he's called by the fans at Royal Birkdale, is 4-under par, four shots off the lead, after shooting 67 on Friday.

"I've put myself where I'm four shots off the lead," he said. "So it's like if I play well, I know I'm sort of going to be closing in, if you like."

Fleetwood called the crowds willing him on "unbelievable."

"They've been an absolute pleasure to play in front of for these two days," he said. "I love that I played some good golf there and something to cheer about. A hundred percent, they make a big difference to me.

"It's such a unique thing, like it's not that many people get to experience what I've experienced this week so far and what I will do for the weekend. Whether I play good or bad, I can't let myself miss out on that. I have to take it in and enjoy it because it is very special, and I'm very lucky in that respect."

OPEN NOTES

Two of the key figures from past Opens played at Birkdale — **Jordan Spieth** and **Justin Rose** — failed to make the cut in this one.

➤ Spieth, who won in 2017, had a nightmarish second round and finished 10-over, failing to make the weekend. Spieth shot a 42 on the back nine, with a 9 on the par-5 17th.

And the 45-year-old Rose, who introduced himself to the golf world as a 17-year-old amateur by finishing tied for fourth in 1998, missed the cut by one shot, at 3-over, and was warmly serenaded by fans on his way off the 18th green.

➤ **Rory McIlroy** has driven the green on the 414-yard, par-4 ninth hole in both of the first two rounds, and two-putted for birdie both times.

Asked if that was his plan entering the week, he said, "No, the practice rounds I played were in a completely different wind direction. I didn't even think about it. Then when I got on the tee [Thursday] and saw the wind, it was like, 'Well, the corner on the right there to cover is like 335 [yards] and downwind as long as I just strike it well, that should be fine.'

"Then [Friday], I got there again. But my game plan was to hit it to the top of the hill and hit a wedge on and go from there, but sometimes opportunities present themselves and you have to take them."

➤ You wouldn't have blamed **Eric Cole** if he'd have looked into changing his flight home after his first round at Royal Birkdale. That, in fact, is exactly what he and his wife did Thursday night.

The 6-over 76 left Cole an almost certainty to miss the 36-hole cut Friday.

Cole, however, would have none of that. He went out and shot a 6-under 64 and is on the cusp of contention entering the weekend.

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **12:35 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Cy Fair (8th)
Lock Record: 3 for 8 (38%)
Meet Record: 20/88 $118.14

1 6 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

Haskell Day at Monmouth. Diana Day at Saratoga.

Two-year-olds in the opener. Asmussen trains first-time starter **POWERLINE**, a Flightline colt. Santana wears the gold & black for West Point. **GREENWELL** ran evenly for 2nd at Churchill. Casse gives him another furlong to get there. **GOT TOUGH** (LaRose/Alvarado/City Of Light) and **THE GOOD LIFE** (Cox/Franco/Life Is Good) load the gate first time as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Got Tough,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	LaRose	12-1
2	The Good Life,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Cox	3-1
3	Johnny Hockey,123	C Elliott	4-3-6	Arriaga	30-1
4	Powerline,123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Asmussen	8-5
5	Jack's Golden Goal,123	J Rodriguez	2-x-x	Arriaga	6-1
6	Let Em Know,123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Beckman	15-1
7	Greenwell,123	J Ortiz	2-x-x	Casse	2-1

2 1 1/8 miles; $65,000; clm($30,000); 4up

Two turns to backend the early double. **REYNOLDS CHANNEL** was 4th after a troubled start racing for 50k. Amelia Green takes him lower. Won on New Years Day under Rodriguez. **SPOILER** Turf to dirt for Maker. Won last 2 dirt starts by noses. Santana picks up the Kentucky invader. **BRAZENLY** is 0 for 19 over the last 2 years but made the board 14 times. Drops for Chris Englehart. Won only start at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Bernin Hot(L),121	M Franco	5-3-5	Rice	4-1
2	Pineapple Man(L),121	R Gutierrez	2-1-4	Nevin	15-1
3	My Noble Knight(L),121	J Ortiz	3-6-2	Sharp	9-2
4	Spoiler(L),123	R Santana, Jr	7-1-1	Maker	3-1
5	Reynolds Channel(L),121	J Rodriguez	4-6-3	Green	5-1
6	Sweetalkingbourbon(L),121	E Zayas	6-7-1	DeVaux	10-1
7	Brazenly(L),121	J Lezcano	9-3-3	Englehart	5-1
8	Power Seeker(L),123	R Silvera	7-1-4	Rodriguez	12-1
9	Indy Rags(L),123	K Carmouche	4-2-1	Giangiulio	10-1

3 7 fur; $70,000; alw; 3up

Green/Rodriguez again. **DINNER ROYALE** moved lower, stretched to 7 furlongs and won at 2nd asking. Competitively spotted. **THE TOY CANNON** crushed claimers. Moved higher and turned in 5th of 6. Carmouche replaces Rodriguez. **COME FULL CIRCLE** is 1 for 13 but 3rd best last pair. Again? Blinkers off.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Solo Jim(L),126	J Alvarado	2-1-8	Hennig	6-1
2	Sebastianthe First(L),126	R Santana, Jr	1-4-2	Delgado	8-1
3	Dinner Royale(L),122	J Rodriguez	1-6-x	Green	6-1
4	Come Full Circle(L),126	M Franco	3-3-5	Sharp	4-1
5	Constant Chaos(L),122	J Lezcano	4-3-1	Duggan	10-1
6	The Toy Cannon(L),122	K Carmouche	5-1-4	Dixon	3-1
7	Corvus(L),126	E Zayas	6-7-4	Kantarmaci	10-1
8	Apollo Code(L),126	C Elliott	3-2-2	Handal	5-1
9	Stayfrostymyfriend(L),122	K Davis	7-1-6	Sacco	12-1

4 5 1/2 fur(T); $125,000; alw; 3up

On the turf. Where **WAR STRIDE** is 0 for 3. Ran 3rd, only 1 1/2 lengths off the winner last try. Weaver gets Franco to seal the deal. **SPICED UP** Close 2nd behind a next out winner here in June. Can move forward for Mott. **MENTEE** Wide, tired 11th behind Spiced Up. Johnny V stays on Repole/Pletcher. **SHAPE NOTE** was 2nd, about 1 1/2 lengths better than War Stride. Must be considered. **ATTFIELD** enters off a 3rd in a 100k at Laurel.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Mentee(L),126	J Velazquez	11-3-7	Pletcher	6-1
2	Dhabab(IRE)(L),126	K Carmouche	5-4-2	Vaughan	5-1
3	Bite and Strike(L),126	J Lezcano	1-1-7	Rice	6-1
4	Shape Note(L),126	D Davis	2-1-5	Maker	7-2
5	Spiced Up(L),126	J Alvarado	2-5-2	Mott	3-1
6	War Stride(L),126	M Franco	3-3-5	Weaver	6-1
7	Attfield(M),122	E Zayas	3-9-7	Morley	6-1
8	Fore Harp(L),126	R Santana, Jr	5-7-4	Reid	12-1
9	Vettriano(L),126	M Franco	6-4-2	Rice	7-2

5 1 1/8 miles(T); $500,000; Diana; 4up(f)

Chad Brown has won the Grade 1 Diana ten times. Make it 11. These 4 ladies are all trained by Brown. **DYNAMIC PRICING** was 3rd in the 2025 Diana. Choice this year after a fast closing 2nd in the shorter Beaugay. **PORTFOLIO DURATION** was 1st and **KATHYNMARISSA** was 3rd when they met in the Grade 1 New York. Kathynmarissa is 3 for 3 at this shorter distance. **SEGESTA** won the Jenny Wiley, then a close 3rd in the Just A Game, both Grade 1s.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dynamic Pricing(IRE),124	E Zayas	2-4-7	C Brown	6-1
2	Cathedral(GB),120	R Santana, Jr	4-x-x	De Foy	6-1
3	Kathynmarissa,122	J Ortiz	3-1-1	C Brown	2-1
4	Portfolio Duration(GB),124	M Franco	1-2-1	C Brown	5-2
5	Five G,120	J Velazquez	3-8-1	Weaver	20-1
6	Segesta,124	D Davis	3-1-1	C Brown	3-1
7	Ozara(IRE),120	J Rodriguez	6-1-7	Clement	12-1

6 6 fur; $120,000; alw; 3up

Take **AGOO** off the extended 21 month shelf? 2 for 9 prior to the break. Trainer Beckman has had success off the layoff. Good enough, but does he need a race? Johnny V will be the 1st to know. **DR KAPUR** hasn't raced since February. When he was 8th behind Renegade in a stake at Tampa. J Ortiz rides for Joseph. 1st time lasix. **OIL CAPITAL** Turf to dirt for Rice. Ran 3rd this distance on dirt in April. Value's up; Lezcano up. **FIVE WISHES** has won 2 in a row, both at the distance. Will be on the lead but can he fend off this group? **TAB AT ZANZIBAR** loads off a maiden breaker (2nd start). Well spotted for Cox.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Tab At Zanzibar(L),122	M Franco	1-2-x	Cox	4-1
2	Unbroken Chain(L),126	K Carmouche	1-1-4	Barker	12-1
3	Rock Music(L),126	R Santana, Jr	5-1-4	Rice	12-1
4	Caldo Candy(L),126	J Rodriguez	8-5-3	Abreu	6-1
5	Dr. Kapur(M),122	J Ortiz	8-6-1	Joseph	5-2
6	Agoo(L),126	J Velazquez	2-1-6	Beckman	7-2
7	Oil Capital(L),126	J Lezcano	7-4-3	Rice	10-1
8	Five Wishes(L),122	D Davis	1-1-6	Summers	9-2

7 6 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

Debut day for these 2YO fillies. Our order of finish **ELEVATED** (Mott/Alvarado/Flightline), **EFFUSIVE** (Cox/Franco/Into Mischief), **HAVE HOPE** (Pletcher/Johnny V/Into Mischief), **BUSINESS MATH** (Asmussen/J Ortiz/Jackies Warrior) and **CRUISING AGAIN** (Romans/Carmouche/Charlatan). Have Hope best value.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Effusive,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Cox	5-2
2	Energy Flows,123	R Santana, Jr	2-x-x	LaRose	6-1
3	Mel Went Home,123	D Davis	3-x-x	Medina	8-1
4	Have Hope,123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Pletcher	12-1
5	Fifth and Chestnut,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Servis	10-1
6	Cruising Again,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Romans	9-2
7	Elevated,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	5-1
8	Key Colony Beach,123	M Gutierrez	x-x-x	Fawkes	12-1
9	Business Math,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Asmussen	6-1

8 5 1/2 fur(T); $225,000; Coronation Cup; 3YO(f)

Will **CY FAIR** run in the Coronation Cup or the Quick Call on Sunday? Popular choice if she goes today. 4 for 6 after winning the Mamzelle, this distance at Churchill. Won the BC Juvenile Turf Sprint last year. **HOT CURRENCY** ran 2nd in the Bouwerie here in June. Edge if we're off turf. **SNOW FACE PRINCESS** was last of 7 at Churchill but 2 for 2 at the Spa including a stake last summer. Best value. **SAPPHIRE BEACH** Neck shy in the Grade 3 Limestone. Rebounded to top an allowance field next out. **HARK THEANGELSSING** won a 100k, narrowly at Laurel.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Quiet Street,124	J Alvarado	5-3-8	Mott	8-1
2	Cy Fair,124	J Velazquez	1-3-1	Weaver	3-5
3	Sapphire Beach(IRE),122	J Ortiz	1-2-5	Arnold II	5-2
4	Cadenza,124	M Franco	3-1-2	Cox	8-1
5	Hark Theangelssing,124	J Rodriguez	1-4-1	Trombetta	12-1
6	Snow Face Princess,124	R Santana, Jr	7-5-9	Asmussen	15-1
7	Niche,124	D Davis	1-1-5	Atras	2-1
8	Hot Currency,124	M Franco	2-1-2	Rice	7-5

9 7 fur; $115,000; mdn; 3up

Wide open. **MO THE MERRIER** debuted 2nd, then a closer 3rd next out. May move forward at fair value for McPeek. **GADGET PLAY** finished well, 3rd of 11 in his opener at Churchill. Stall gives him another 1/16 to get there. **CRITERIA** In the money 3 of 4. Distant 3rd, this distance. Rider change to J Ortiz.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Criteria(L),122	J Ortiz	2-3-5	C Brown	5-1
2	Sidearm(L),126	K Carmouche	5-2-3	Barker	15-1
3	Stimulate(M),122	J Alvarado	5-x-x	Mott	4-1
4	Dark Assault(L),122	J Lezcano	7-2-3	McGaughey III	10-1
5	Mo the Merrier(L),122	C Elliott	3-2-x	McPeek	8-1
6	Stirring Words(L),122	J Rodriguez	2-8-x	DeVaux	8-1
7	Ovechkin(L),122	E Zayas	5-6-4	Hennig	20-1
8	Ize a Runner(M),122	D Davis	x-x-x	C Brown	12-1
9	Gadget Play(L),122	R Santana, Jr	3-x-x	Stall	7-2
10	Noble Edition(L),122	M Franco	4-x-x	Cox	9-2

10 1 mile; $110,000; alw; 3up

ANNEXPERIENCE Turf to dirt for Jeremiah Englehart. Made 1 dirt start. Won it by 14+ lengths, pulling down a 99 fig. Runs same distance. **WHITTINGTON PARK** led, before finishing a game 2nd. Claimed by Kantarmaci who tightens him to a mile. 1 for 9 at the Spa. **THREE BS** moves back to the dirt for Rice. Won last dirt start by a nose. Contender under J Ortiz.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	King's Leap(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-4-5	Ferraro	15-1
2	Berning Beauty(L),126	E Zayas	4-5-1	Baker	10-1
3	Annexperience(L),126	K Carmouche	4-1-2	Englehart	8-5
4	Dear Chairman(L),126	J Rodriguez	4-6-4	Rodriguez	15-1
5	Whittington Park(L),126	M Franco	2-7-4	Kantarmaci	3-1
6	Jackson Heights(L),126	C Elliott	5-2-7	Kantarmaci	12-1
7	Elysian Meadows(L),126	J Alvarado	4-2-5	Mott	6-1
8	Three B's(L),126	J Ortiz	7-1-10	Rice	4-1

11 1 1/16 miles(T); $110,000; alw; 3up

Late double is on the turf. **SMOOTH BREEZE** Midpack 5th in the Kingston. About 2 lengths short at this level/distance previously. 1st time gelding; 1st time J Ortiz. **JACK AND JIM** went 2 for 2 in 2024. Returned after 1 1/2 years and lost the rider. Franco stays on...we hope. **CONMAN** makes seasonal debut for Morley. 1 for 5 last year; 0 for 7 at this distance; but 3rd in the 2025 West Point. **IRON MAX** Runnerup twice with comparable company at Aqueduct.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	El de Larry(L),126	D Davis	2-1-5	Bailes	20-1
2	Terminal Velocity(L),126	R Gutierrez	9-1-5	Bartkowski	30-1
3	Cable Ready(L),126	J Lezcano	5-4-3	Dixon	15-1
4	Mo Trump(L),126	C Elliott	3-8-1	Ferraro	10-1
5	Leon Blue(L),126	K Carmouche	6-7-8	Giddings	10-1
6	Conman(L),126	R Santana, Jr	4-11-3	Morley	8-1
7	Iron Max(L),126	J Rodriguez	2-2-5	Cox	3-1
8	Jack and Jim(L),126	M Franco	6-1-1	Motion	3-1
9	Shared Success(L),126	E Zayas	1-5-5	Begg	15-1
10	Smooth Breeze(L),126	J Ortiz	5-4-2	Abreu	5-2
11	Clear Conscience(L),126	J Velazquez	5-6-2	Green	8-1
12	Beary Funny(L),126	Rider TBA	3-4-6	Rodriguez	9-2

12 5 1/2 fur(T); $100,000; mdn; 3up(f)

MY LIL ARMY GIRL Close 3rd, then 2nd at the Big A. Claimed by DePaz who gets Franco to put her over the top. **RED VELVET CAKE** makes seasonal/turf debut for Giddings. Close 2nd, distant 7th on dirt. Johnny V was aboard for the close 2nd. **COMBAT MOVE** (Rice/J Ortiz/Combatant) makes career debut. **APERITIF** Narrowly defeated last pair. Can move forward as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	My First Dinah(L),122	R Gutierrez	4-7-4	Jones	30-1
2	Aperitif(L),126	J Rodriguez	3-2-5	Merryman	7-2
3	Lake Ariel(L),122	D Davis	4-3-5	Donk	10-1
4	Red Velvet Cake(L),126	J Velazquez	7-2-x	Giddings	5-2
5	Galway Gurl(L),122	K Davis	12-x-x	Ferraro	15-1
6	Shake Em Off(M),122	R Silvera	x-x-x	Nevin	15-1
7	Daylight Dreamer(L),122	K Carmouche	11-2-7	Englehart	5-1
8	My Lil Army Girl(L),122	M Franco	2-3-4	De Paz	6-1
9	Combat Move(M),122	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Rice	7-2

PLAY OF THE DAY

Red Square (6-5) broke through the gate and reloaded. Sorry he did. Our long shot Waitlist (39-1) ran to his odds. Loss of $42.

Two horses. Two tracks. Play $10 across the board on Mo the Merrier in Race 9 and The Puma in the Haskell at Monmouth Park.

— *Vic Cangialosi*

Saratoga Results

FIRST-5½ fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 3up

1	Shrl's Sl Twn (Ortz)	28.40	11.54	5.54
6	Blazing Tiger (Gaffalone)		6.00	4.22
5	He's My Kind (Franco)			3.38

Scr: Onepac
● $1 Exacta (1-6) $90.15 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-6-5-2) $83.81 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-6-5) $156.47

SECOND-7 fur; $75,000; mdn cl($100,0); 3up

3	Dscothqu (OrtzJr.)	6.90	3.90	2.62
6	The Standard (Ortiz)		4.66	3.12
4	Old Time Rocknroll (Davis)			4.10

● $1 Daily Double (1-3) $74.77 ● $1 Exacta (3-6) $16.47 ● $1 Quinella (3-6) $8.33 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-6-4-1) $25.10 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-6-4) $37.35

Winner picked by Vic C

THIRD-7 fur; $84,000; clm($62,500); 4up

1	Rdgwd Runnr (Prt)	5.96	3.20	2.60
4	Two Egles Rver (OrtzJr.)		4.16	3.10
2	Reddington (Carmouche)			4.68

Scr: Unlimitedpotential
● $1 Pick 3 (1-3-1) $231.21 ● $1 Daily Double (3-1) $11.01 ● $1 Exacta (1-4) $11.29 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-4-2-6) $14.34 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-4-2) $19.12

Double picked by Vic C

FOURTH-5½ fur; $90,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F

5	Lx's Chrm (OrtzJr.)	9.92	5.08	3.70
9	Atlas a Eye (Franco)		4.78	3.70
7	Goodproblemtohve (Rodrguz)			7.04

● $1 Pick 3 (3-1-5) $61.16 ● $1 Daily Double (1-5) $23.64 ● $1 Exacta (5-9) $26.05 ● $1 Quinella (5-9) $13.98 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-9-7-3) $246.67 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-9-7) $86.54

Pick Three picked by Vic C

FIFTH-5½ fur; $110,000; alw; 3up

1	Bstn's Phnst (Ortz)	6.40	3.74	2.56
8	Courtly Banker (Davis)		5.50	4.16
5	Twisted Filigree (Franco)			2.92

Scr: Party in the Army, Beary Funny, New York Scrappy, Anyway, Kid Billy, Jackson Heights
● $1 Pick 3 (1-5-1) $47.21 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (3-1-5-1) $108.01 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1-3-1-5-1) $2383.65 ● $1 Daily Double (5-1) $21.81 ● $1 Exacta (1-8) $19.04 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-8-5-2) $50.62 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-8-5) $26.13

SIXTH-1 mile 3 fur; $125,000; alw; 3up

2	Rght to Vot (Frnc)	7.06	4.60	3.00
3	Arkhipov (Prat)		6.86	4.48
6	Gilded Craken (Ortiz)			4.56

Scr: Britain's Kitten, Georgia Magic, Harrow, Just a Fair Shake, Mutaawid, Dreamlike
● $1 Pick 3 (5-1-2) $73.27 ● $1 Daily Double (1-2) $17.47 ● $1 Exacta (2-3) $17.12 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-3-6-4) $42.74 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-3-6) $48.07

SEVENTH-1 mile 1 fur; $42,000; cl($20,0); 3up

1	Antietam (OrtizJr.)	5.44	3.02	2.50
9	Mirage (Santana,Jr.)		2.88	2.32
3	You're Lookin Good (Ortiz)			2.84

Scr: Geostoblame
● $1 Pick 3 (1-2-1) $36.39 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (5-1-2-1) $101.71 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1-5-1-2-1) $368.18 ● $1 Daily Double (2-1) $10.83 ● $1 Exacta (1-9) $4.62 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-9-3-2) $5.28 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-9-3) $7.41

Exacta picked by Vic C

EIGHTH-1 1/16 mile; $73,000; cl($40,0); 4up

7	Santorini (Prat)	6.36	3.98	3.34
6	Presider (Franco)		5.12	3.96
3	Belouni (FR) (Rodriguez)			3.28

Scr: Power Seeker, Inexorable, Ice Chocolat (BRZ), Brazenly, Beef Winslow, Three Technique, Pineapple Man, Ambition
● $1 Pick 3 (2-1-7) $35.05 ● $1 Daily Double (1-7) $10.46 ● $1 Exacta (7-6) $11.84 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-6-3-1) $22.38 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-6-3) $19.39

NINTH-1 mileT; $150,000; DeLaRose; 4upf

3	And On Mr Tm (Vlzqz)	7.08	4.06	2.84
2	Hang the Moon (OrtizJr.)		8.70	5.00
4	Sandtrap (IRE) (Prat)			2.98

Scr: WiththeAngels, Scalable, LongAgo, Bernietakescharge, SaltySenorita, GoingSteady
● $1 Grand Slam (2/3/6-1/3/9-3/6/7-3) $17.60 ● $1 Pick 3 (1-7-3) $34.53 ● $1 Daily Double (7-3) $12.22 ● $1 Exacta (3-2) $28.23 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-2-4-8) $47.55 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-2-4) $40.06

TENTH-6½ fur; $42,000; cl($20,0); 3up (f&m)

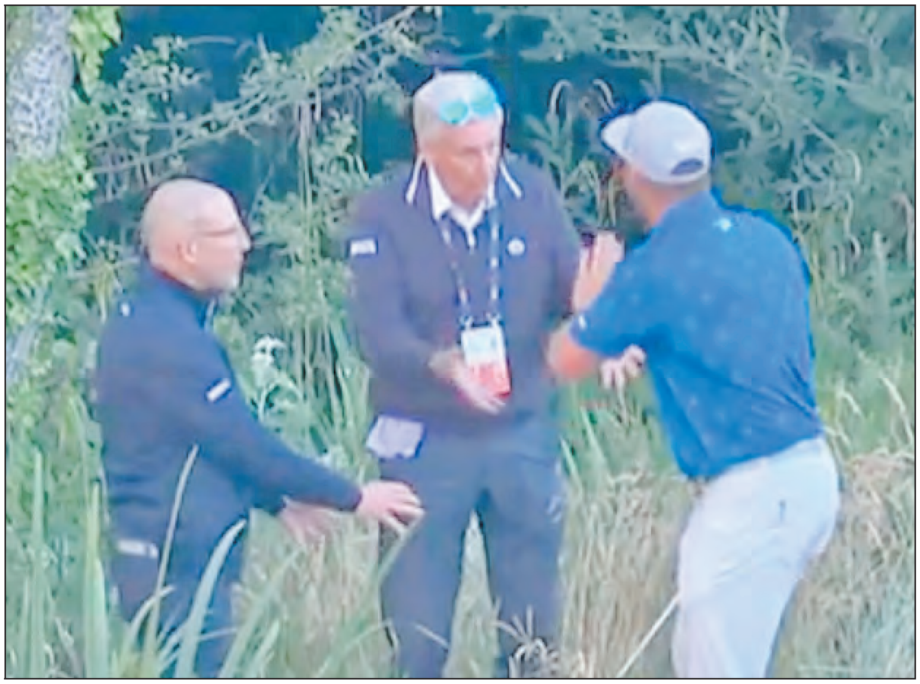
2	Dnn Rmn (OrtzJr.)	3.96	3.44	2.94
11	Admiral Sol (Davis)		30.50	12.90
5	Lady Delilah (Santana,Jr.)			3.94

Scr: Furry Fox, Will of a Womanne
● $1 Pick 6 (1-2-1-7-3-2) $25.26 ● $1 Pick 6 (1-2-1-7-3-2) $1190.45 ● $1 Pick 3 (7-3-2) $24.38 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (1-7-3-2) $36.38 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (2-1-7-3-2) $317.31 ● $1 Daily Double (3-2) $9.58 ● $1 Exacta (2-11) $80.42 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-11-5-4) $334.60 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-11-5) $311.63 ● $1 Pick 6 (1-2-1-7-3-2) $1190.45 ● $1 Daily Double (3-2) $9.58 ● $1 Exacta (2-11) $80.42 ● $0.1 Show (2-11-5-4) $334.60 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-11-5) $311.63

PAYING DE PRICE

By MARK CANNIZZARO

Bryson penalized two strokes for ‘inadvertently’ improving lie



SOUTHPORT, England — Only Bryson DeChambeau.

He simply cannot get out of his own way.

The temperamental but talented DeChambeau became embroiled in a rules controversy late Friday that ended with him being assessed a two-shot penalty.

The penalty, which was levied when R&A officials determined that he illegally improved his lie in high grass on the fifth hole (seemingly stamping down the grass), moved DeChambeau from 7-under par, one shot out of the lead and in the final pairing for Saturday’s third round, to 5-under and in a tie for fifth.

DeChambeau had taken a bogey 5 on the fifth hole, and after the ruling it became a triple-bogey 7.

After the penalty was assessed and DeChambeau emerged from the scoring trailer, he swiftly walked to the practice range without commenting.

He proceeded to hit balls in the dark for about 30 minutes, until 10:30 p.m. local time.

While DeChambeau — who had seemingly had threatened to withdraw — was hitting balls, his agent, Brett Falkoff, told reporters that DeChambeau “is a big boy,” adding, “We’ll see how he feels,” when asked if he planned to play Saturday.

Late Friday night, DeChambeau said he will tee it up, posting on X, “Obviously disappointed with the ruling. I don’t agree with it, but it is what it is. This fires me up. Onto the weekend. Let’s get it.”

Still, he was clearly bothered by the entire incident.

“He certainly feels he was unfairly penalized,” Falkoff said. “He’s a lot of things, [but] he’s not a cheater.”

Grant Moir, the R&A executive director of governance, said as much in a statement to reporters, making it clear twice that while DeChambeau broke a rule, he did it inadvertently.

“Bryson has been penalized two strokes for inadvertently improving the area of his intended swing, so intended backswing on the fifth hole when he was playing his second shot,” Moir said. “Ruling 1 restricts what a player may do to improve any of the protected conditions affecting the stroke, and this includes the area of the player’s intended swing.

“So, an improvement means to alter one or more of the conditions affecting the stroke so that the player gains a potential advantage for the stroke. I’ll stress that this applies even when the action is accidental, as it was in Bryson’s case.

“The area of intended swing includes the entire area that might reasonably affect any part of the backswing, the downswing or the complaining of the swing for the intended stroke, and importantly, what the prohibited action here is that the player mustn’t move, bend or break any growing or attached natural object.

“A player is allowed to fairly take their stance by taking reasonable actions to get to the ball and take a stance, if in some situations that improves the condition affecting the stroke, but when doing so, the player must take the least intrusive course of action to deal with the particular situation and is not entitled to a normal stance or swing.”

The scene that played out after DeChambeau’s round was complete was positively bizarre.

After he entered the scoring trailer following his round, it was there he was informed of the infraction. He was then driven out, in a cart with Moir, to the scene on No. 5 to seemingly reenact what he said he or did not do.

He got into a lengthy animated argument with the rules officials as he tried to make his case. DeChambeau was waving his arms wildly, shaking his head and in absolute disagreement with what he was being told.

At one point, the TV cameras appeared to show DeChambeau saying to the rules officials, “I’m not going to play tomorrow.”

He was driven back to the scoring trailer and was in there for some 30 minutes before emerging, blowing off reporters as he walked past them, offering only a sarcastic, “You guys having a good night?”

When he was asked on the move if he was going to play Saturday, DeChambeau mumbled that he was going to hit some balls, and he stormed out to the practice range despite the fact that darkness was falling as 10 p.m. approached.

It’s been a hell of a week for DeChambeau, who entered the Open having missed the cut in the first three majors this year.

He was torched on TV by Nick Faldo before the tournament for having no clue about strategy on links golf courses.

Golf Channel’s Brandel Chamblee, a frequent critic of DeChambeau, piled on with criticism that he was more interested in his YouTube brand than chasing down the likes of Scottie Scheffler and Rory McIlroy in major championships.

And after his opening round, which left him just two shots off the lead, he declined to talk to the media.

But, for the second consecutive day, DeChambeau played brilliantly Friday, showing plenty of strategic brilliance en route to what he thought was a 66 to get to what he thought was 7-under.

Still, at 5-under after the penalty, DeChambeau is squarely in contention entering the weekend.

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Playtime’s over: When will the childlike theatrics

Mark Cannizzaro

SOUTHPORT, England — Bryson DeChambeau did the crime and now has only one choice: Do the time, accept the penalty and man up like an adult and go win the damned British Open this weekend at Royal Birkdale.

You’ve probably seen the videos by now. Both of them. One more damning than the other.

Neither was a good look for DeChambeau, who this week has become expert in bad looks, beginning with his petulant refusal to speak to reporters after his opening-round 67 on Thursday.

The first video shows DeChambeau stomping down high grass around the ball he’d deposited into a poor lie in the right rough on the fifth hole during his second round Friday.

The second video shows DeChambeau, hours after he’d played No. 5, back at the scene of the crime with tournament officials trying to show them what he did or didn’t do in that tall grass.

He was seen gesticulating in protest with waving arms and head shaking like a child who wasn’t getting his way.

At that point during the heated exchange, it was abundantly clear that DeChambeau wasn’t getting his way. He was getting a two-shot penalty for improving his lie — moving him from 7-under and in second place to 5-under and in a tie for fifth.

There was a moment at that fifth hole, before they would all drive back to the scoring trailer and make the penalty official, when you could read DeChambeau’s lips on camera telling to the R&A official, “I’m not going to play tomorrow.”

Those six words and the threatening way in which they were delivered illustrated DeChambeau’s biggest flaw of all: He thinks he’s bigger than the game.

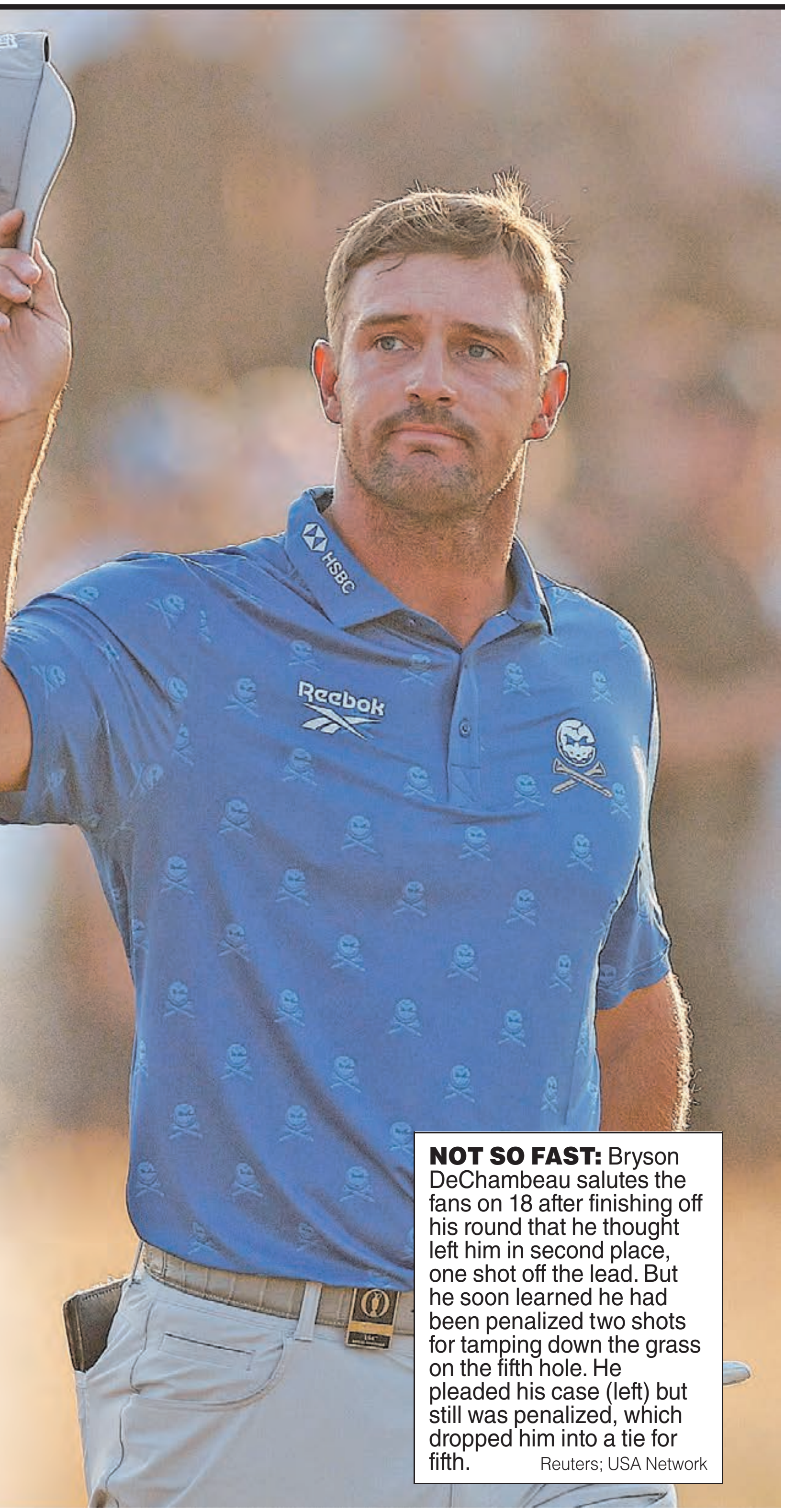
And he’s not. Not even close.

What he is, however, in this British Open is a player who’s as much a threat to win the Claret Jug as anyone in contention entering the weekend.

Lost in all of the post-round hysteria is the brilliant golf DeChambeau has been playing.

Lost is the fact that DeChambeau, criticized on TV before the tournament by Nick Faldo for having no clue about strategy on links golf courses, has actually been a strategic genius on firm and baked-out Birkdale.

After he emerged from the scoring trailer with his two-shot pen-



NOT SO FAST: Bryson DeChambeau salutes the fans on 18 after finishing off his round that he thought left him in second place, one shot off the lead. But he soon learned he had been penalized two shots for tamping down the grass on the fifth hole. He pleaded his case (left) but still was penalized, which dropped him into a tie for fifth. Reuters; USA Network

come to an end?

alty at about 9:45 p.m. local time, DeChambeau briskly marched to the practice range followed by a pack of reporters to whom he declined comment, and hit balls in the dark for about 30 minutes, until 10:30 p.m.

That surely suggested that he'll be on the first tee alongside scheduled playing partner Sam Burns for his third-round tee time Saturday afternoon.

His agent, Brett Falkoff, left some doubt in the air when speaking to reporters while DeChambeau was hitting balls, saying, "We'll see how he feels" about playing Saturday.

"But he certainly feels he was unfairly penalized," Falkoff went on. "He's a lot of things, [but] he's not a cheater."

Some 90 minutes later, though, DeChambeau announced on his Instagram account that he's "On to the weekend."

Which is exactly where his head should be.

Accept the penalty, man up and go win the damned tournament.

That'll make for one of the most interesting winner's press conferences in Open Championship history.

WHAT A DAY! Lucas Herbert (left) and Sam Burns fired matching 62s, tying the major record. Herbert had a shot at 61 but bogeyed 18, while Burns birdied 18 from a bunker. Getty Images (2)

62 of a kind: Burns & Herbert tie major mark

By MARK CANNIZZARO

SOUTHPORT, England — Friday of the 154th British Open may forever be known as the Tale of Two 62s.

It left you to ponder a few things:

- Whether one major championship record-tying 62 was better than the other.
- Whether the second 62, posted by Sam Burns, overshadowed the first one, posted by Lucas Herbert, and took some of Herbert's glory away.
- And whether any of it will matter if neither player goes on to hoist the Claret Jug as the "Champion Golfer of the Year" come Sunday evening on the 18th green of Royal Birkdale.

Herbert, the 30-year-old Australian who plays on LIV Golf, was basking in the glow of his 62, doing post-round interviews and recounting it all, when the roars could be heard from 18, where Burns holed out from a greenside bunker for birdie to close out his 62.

Burns, whose wife gave birth to their daughter July 3, had given himself a "0 percent chance" to be in the field this week. So merely being in the field was a surprise after she'd talked him into making the trip to England.

Herbert was on the chase of the record-low score in a major championship from the jump in his round, which began with birdies on the first three holes and a 6-under-par 28 at the turn.

"The first 12 holes ... I might not play 12 better holes in my life," he said.

Burns entered the day still ticked off at bogeying his final three holes Thursday, walking off the course at 3-over, and his goal was merely to get himself into red numbers for the tournament by day's end.

Herbert looked unstoppable in his mad pursuit of 61, and by the time he got to the 17th hole, it looked like it would be an upset if he didn't have sole possession of the record by round's end.

He was in perfect position to do so at 9-under for the day (with nine birdies and no blemishes) as he stood on the tee at the par-5 17th.

But alas, Herbert, perhaps flinching in the gravity of the moment, faltered with a disappointing par on 17 and then a three-putt bogey the 18th to finish with an 8-under 62.

He had a 4-foot par putt on the 18th that would have given him the record alone at 61 and he pulled it left, the ball never touching the cup.

Afterward, he sounded almost apologetic for not posting that 61 for which everyone around the golf course was willing him to sign.

"It was a very cool experience to be a part of," Herbert said. "Everyone wanted it to happen. They wanted to be a part of it. I felt like I let everyone down."

He didn't, of course. Herbert has nothing for which to apologize. His round was positively electric and had Birkdale buzzing. Those in attendance will always remember being there.

"I'm absolutely disappointed and, at the same time, so proud of today," Herbert said. "So it's kind of holding two emotions there at the same time. Right now I've sort of got both going on, and it's a pretty good problem to have too, to be disappointed you shot 62."

More important than the 62 he shot, tying the major championship record, Herbert's round has him one shot clear of Bryson DeChambeau (7-under) and two ahead of Cam Young and Jackson Suber (6-under) for the lead going into the weekend. Burns is three back at 5-under.

Herbert and Burns joined the list of players who have carded 62s in majors, adding their names alongside Branden Grace in the 2017 British Open, Rickie Fowler and Scottie Scheffler in the 2023 U.S. Open and Xander Schauffele and Shane Lowry in the 2024 PGA Championship.

"We were on 17 and I saw that [Herbert] was 9-under and I was like, 'Goodness, that's pretty impressive,' " Burns said.

Burns said his career round "caught" him "by surprise."

"I honestly feel like I played a pretty solid round of golf [Thursday] and then just a terrible finish there on 16, 17, 18," Burns said. "I thought coming into the day if I could get it to red numbers for the golf tournament, that would be a pretty good spot. The finish there the last three holes [all birdies] was just a bonus."

Burns sounded like a guy playing with house money after Herbert had sounded like a player who knew he left at least one precious shot out there with his wobbly finish.

Did that make Burns' 62 better than Herbert's?

Or did Herbert doing it first and the fact that he leads the tournament make his 62 better?

There really is no tangible answer. Not until the Claret Jug is awarded Sunday.

British Open

Royal Birkdale Golf Club
Southport, England

Leaderboard

Lucas Herbert	-8
Cameron Young	-6
Ryan Gerard	-6
Jackson Suber	-6
Same Burns	-5
Si Woo Kim	-5
Bryson DeChambeau	-5

On the air

Saturday
USA: 5 a.m.-7 a.m.
NBC: 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday
USA: 4-7 a.m.
NBC: 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

FORE-CAST

Saturday
70 degrees; Partly cloudy
13 pct. chance of rain
Winds: N 13 mph

Sunday
69 degrees: Mostly sunny
3 pct. chance of rain
Winds: NNW 12 mph

KAT'S PAL CAL

CAL-SULTANT: John Calipari, who coached Karl-Anthony Towns (right) at Kentucky, said he advised the Knicks big man during the playoffs to be careful of flopping in an attempt to draw fouls after contact. Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

Towns' ex-coach offered some helpful advice during playoffs

By STEFAN BONDY

As Karl-Anthony Towns was going through his struggles last season — when he was inefficient offensively and getting criticized in the media — he never complained to John Calipari.

As Towns' former Kentucky coach said in an interview with The Post, "He was a pro through everything. I would get mad and if I talked to him, he'd be like, 'Hey, it is what it is.' "

JOHN CALIPARI

But Calipari did offer some unrelated advice during the championship run, which Knicks fans will probably appreciate after watching so much foul-baiting.

"Karl was taking some heat and I was so mad. He didn't deserve that. But the only thing I did tell him — 'They're not calling fouls so quit flopping,' " Calipari told The Post in Las Vegas during Summer League. "If you're going to shoot it, they're going to foul you. And they're not calling it. I'm watching the Spurs and OKC beat the s--t out of each other (in the Western Conference finals). No calls. And I said, 'Look man, go for and-ones, and if they don't foul you, at least you'll make the basket. Flopping ain't helping.' "

Indeed, Towns, a reputational exaggerator of contact, seemed to fall to the court fewer times during the postseason run. He also took fewer foul shots — just 4.1 per game during the postseason, the fewest of his playoff career — but was effective in many other areas after becoming a playmaker at the elbow.

The adjustment of turning Towns into an offensive hub occurred after the Knicks trailed 2-1 in the first round against the Hawks. They proceeded to go 14-1 to break a 53-year championship drought, with Towns transforming into a triple-double threat.

"Playing through Karl did two things — it opened the court for all those other guys. So now they were all All-Stars," Calipari said. "It did not take away from what Jalen (Brunson) is going to do at the end of games. He's maybe the best ever (in the clutch). I want to say the best ever but you have Michael [Jordan]. But in this era, late in the game, when you need a basket [he's the best].

"But you can't play that way 48 minutes. So playing through Karl earlier in the games, it's spacing the court, he's helluva passer, can make a couple 3s. And you know what else it got him to do? He started defending better because he was engaged.

"Think about if it's you, you're down there bumping and grinding, and you're touching the ball every seventh trip down. Now you're touching it way more. You're gonna try harder on defense."

With the assumption opposing teams will adjust to the Knicks playing through KAT, Calipari said the scheme's continued success will require team-wide improvements. But he clearly likes the idea of KAT with the ball at the elbow.

"They have to get a little bit better. That's all. All of them get a little bit better," Calipari said. "And what they have is a rhythm now and how they play and each guy can be a star in what he does. Josh [Hart] is a star at what he does. [Mikal] Bridges is a star at what he does. OG [Anunoby]? Star at what he does. And they all have different roles. Jalen is that centerpiece. Karl is the guy you play through. And when the s--t is on the line, Jalen shoots the ball. It is what it is."

The other task is keeping the Knicks together as their contracts expand and the second apron looms. The Knicks already lost backup center Mitchell Robinson because of the potential for luxury tax restrictions/penalties. Towns is eligible to negotiate a max extension worth $272 million over four years. But to keep the books reasonable — especially with Brunson eligible for an extension next year — Towns would probably need to extend at considerably less than the max.

Asked generally about the trend of NBA players taking discounts — most notably Brunson and Victor Wembanyama — Calipari stumped for the sacrifice.

"People are getting pissed. But there is a second apron for a reason — to discourage that from happening," Calipari said. "But it makes me feel good — what's the difference between $400 million and $502 million? I don't begrudge somebody saying, 'No, I earned it.' I don't begrudge. But I'm saying it's kinda neat. Because I'm about team. And that means — I care about myself and my family, but I also care about this team. What's the common ground? What's the middle ground?"

Eagles diehard Brunson balks at fan's autograph request

By SPENCER BROD

Don't ever test Jalen Brunson's Eagles fandom.

When one fan asked the Knicks star to sign a Giants helmet at Fanatics Fest on Thursday, Brunson had quite the response.

"Wait, wait, I am not signing that," Brunson, a diehard Eagles fan, said. "That's against my religion. Are you gonna make me sign a Giants helmet?"

"Can I write 'Go Birds' on it? I'm gonna write 'Go Birds' on it."

"Can we convert you?" she asked Brunson.

"No," Brunson replied.

Despite initially refusing, Brunson eventually signed the helmet with "Go Birds."

Brunson, who's been with the Knicks since 2022 and won NBA Finals MVP this season, was born in New Jersey but has ties to Philadelphia. He attended Villanova from 2015-18, winning two national championships with the Wildcats alongside current Knicks teammates Mikal Bridges and Josh Hart.

Before the Giants-Eagles divisional round clash in 2023, in which the Eagles won 38-7, Brunson showed up to a Knicks game wearing a Jalen Hurts jersey.

Ahead of an Eagles-Falcons Monday night game in September 2024, Brunson joined former Philadelphia center Jason Kelce on ESPN's pregame show and gave an incorrect prediction for the game, which the Eagles lost.

After joining the Knicks in free agency four years ago, Brunson has quickly become a fan favorite with his scoring ability and clutch shots.

He's averaged at least 24 points per game every year as a Knick and has helped guide them to four straight playoff appearances. He put on a dazzling NBA Finals display — capped by scoring 45 points in the series-clinching Game 5 to secure MVP honors. The Knicks won their first championship since 1973.

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Fried on the brink of return

By GREG JOYCE

Of all the key Yankees currently on the injured list, Max Fried has a chance to be the first one back.

The left-hander took a significant step in making that happen Friday night when he started a rehab assignment with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre — throwing 52 pitches across three innings while giving up two runs and no walks with three strikeouts — just over two months removed from landing on the IL with a left elbow bone bruise.

YANKEES NOTES

If he recovers from Friday's game without issue, Fried is expected to make at least one more rehab start Wednesday before the Yankees will discuss whether he is ready to rejoin the rotation, though he would not be fully built up at that point.

"Obviously, tonight's another important step for him," manager Aaron Boone said before the Yankees fell to the Dodgers 2-1 to begin the season's second half.

Fried presumably would get to around 60 pitches in his next start, making it possible he could return to the big leagues after that on a pitch count around 70 and finish off his buildup from there.

In the meantime, the Yankees will need to fill his rotation spot Tuesday against the Pirates, though Boone said they had not yet decided whether they would do so by calling up a fifth starter (à la Elmer Rodríguez) or throwing a bullpen game, like they did against the Rays before the All-Star break.

➤ Fellow lefty **Carlos Rodón** (left elbow inflammation) threw about 10 pitches off the bullpen mound Friday as he continued his throwing progression after being shut down for about a week.

➤ **Clarke Schmidt** is set to face hitters in a simulated inning Saturday for the first time in his rehab from Tommy John surgery.

"Itching, man," Schmidt said Friday. "It's been a little bit over a year now, just hit the year mark [July 11], so really excited to start somewhat getting close to competing."

➤ **Giancarlo Stanton** (right calf strain) has started his running progression outside, Boone said, but remains without a timetable for a return.

Lombard's treat

Bombers' future SS swats leadoff HR in first game back since spraining fingers

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

WELCOME BACK: Yanks prospect George Lombard Jr. had missed the last month before returning to the lineup for Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

Restart the clock for a possible George Lombard Jr. sighting in The Bronx.

The Yankees' top prospect has reentered the radar, activated by Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre before Friday's game after missing about a month with a pair of sprained fingers on his glove hand.

In his first game back, Lombard swatted a leadoff home run over the left field fence in the bottom of the first. He finished 2-for-3 with a walk and a strikeout.

Prior to the injury, Lombard had begun to do what he had done at Double-A Somerset: bounce back from a slow start and show signs he was about to conquer the level.

In his first 15 games with SWB after a late April promotion, he was hitting .127 with seven hits, all singles.

From May 17 until the tag he applied at second base on June 16 that sent him to the injured list, he slashed .287/.398/.525 with four homers in 27 games.

"I think he was close [to a call-up before the injury]," said Double-A manager James Cooper, who was Lombard's coach last year, too, at High-A Hudson Valley, and then watched as Lombard needed just 20 games this season with Somerset before forcing his way to SWB. "As quick as he got to Triple-A this year ... I do think he has a chance to be up there [in the majors] pretty soon."

The club's 2023 first-round pick, Lombard is just 21 and Friday was set to play only his 43rd game in Triple-A. But a combination of a reputation for defensive excellence, a maturity beyond his years and issues with the big league shortstops has created a pathway for Lombard's time to arrive sooner than the organization probably envisioned.

Earlier this month, Brian Cashman said Lombard's defense already is "ready to go" for the big league level. There are few doubts about his glove and arm offering real value even if his bat requires the same adjustment that it has at each minor league level.

"A special defender," Cooper said of Lombard while coaching the All-Star Futures Game in Philadelphia last weekend. "The baseball IQ is through the roof. Great person off the field. Great captain on the field."

Lombard is a coach's son — his father spent parts of six seasons in the majors and now is the Tigers bench coach — and plays like it, his heady defensive and base-running highlights going viral often. There was the intentionally dropped pop-up that led to a double play. There was the hesitation and juke of a catcher that allowed him to score on a play at the plate in which he was beaten by several steps.

"I think he's a Gold Glove defender in the big leagues one day," said Cooper, who added that Lombard brings similar softer skills — like command of both English and Spanish — to the clubhouse, where he is a natural leader.

In an ideal world, the Yankees probably would want Lombard to master SWB competition and then compete for a job next spring rather than debut during the stretch run for a team that expects to play for a title. Anthony Volpe (who entered play with a .668 OPS, roughly the same below-average hitter he has been since arriving while his defense has been a touch worse) and José Caballero (entering play hitting .233 with a .667 OPS since May 24, his bat cooling off) have ensured this season and situation have not been ideal for Yankees shortstops.

Caballero started Friday's 2-1 loss to the Dodgers, holding the edge at the moment in a shortstop race that has swung back and forth because neither player has run away with the job.

Aug. 3 looms large — "You've seen the history of what the Yankees do as far as the trade deadline goes," Cooper said — and it would not be stunning if Lombard is needed to front a trade package for an immediate major league difference-maker.

But it would be surprising, given the club's belief in a prospect who, at worst, offers an excellent glove and, at best, offers a bat that has taken steps at each minor league level. Cooper pointed to Lombard's "poise and maturity" that allow him to "get over failure extremely quickly."

This is not the profile of a prospect the Yankees believe would be overwhelmed if he struggles initially in The Bronx.

Lombard, now healthy after a two-game rehab assignment in which he homered in both games, can begin making his argument that his time is now. The club will be watching.

"We always watch him closely," manager Aaron Boone said.

JUDGIN' JAXSON

The Post dives into data to predict how Year 2 for Dart will go

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Samuel Butler might never have called an audible in the face of a blitz, but the English novelist wrote that "life is the art of drawing sufficient conclusions from insufficient premises."

The basis for a lot of preseason hype about the Giants is that Jaxson Dart is about to make a significant jump because a football adage tells us quarterbacks make their biggest improvements between their first and second seasons. And, if it is repeated often enough, it must be true, right?

The Post researched the 33 first-round quarterbacks drafted from 2016-24 to see how many actually took a Year 2 leap — or was it more like a baby step? — and how many went in the other direction.

Removing five instances where there is not enough data over the first two seasons to draw a conclusion, 19 of the other 28 experienced a spike in quarterback rating, including seven whose progress was dramatic. Of the nine who went in reverse, only one (the Commanders' Jayden Daniels) was limited by injury.

But perhaps the most interesting finding related to expectations for Dart in 2026 is that quarterbacks who had a new head coach and new offensive coordinator made some of the biggest strides.

Dart went 4-8, and accounted for 24 touchdowns (15 passing, nine rushing) with five interceptions and a 91.7 rating as a rookie under Brian Daboll and Mike Kafka.

For all the concern about a setback caused by asking a quarterback to start from scratch with a new playbook just as he should be turning a corner — brought on in Giants circles by the regression that Daniel Jones experienced after his promising rookie season — consider that eight of the last 12 quarterbacks in Dart's position increased their production while handling the adjustment.

"Because it's a new system, it's like Year 1 in some ways," one NFL offensive coach told The Post, "but Year 2 in reaction [to the defense] ways. You want improvements in areas that continue to grow to Year 3."

The hope for Dart

Look no further than last season, to MVP runner-up Drake Maye (Patriots) and Caleb Williams (Bears), for examples of second-year quarterbacks who were undaunted — or even uplifted — by a coaching change.

If Maye is the gold standard under those adverse circumstances, Trevor Lawrence (Jaguars) and Jared Goff (Rams) are not far off the pace. Both former No. 1 overall picks improved their rookie quarterback ratings by at least 23 points and their win totals by at least six.

Lawrence worked with Doug Pederson, who previously coached Carson Wentz from an inconsistent rookie into an MVP candidate in Year 2.

Less-accomplished quarterbacks even proved that a new coach before Year 2 can be more beneficial than disruptive: Justin Fields (Bears) and Mitch Trubisky (Bears) had their career-best seasons, and Bryce Young (Panthers) and Sam Darnold (Jets) offered reasons for hope.

To no one's surprise, the NFL's consensus top four quarterbacks — Patrick Mahomes (Chiefs), Josh Allen (Bills), Lamar Jackson (Ravens) and Joe Burrow (Bengals) — all took major steps forward as second-year players, though it was Mahomes' first as a starter.

Dart will be playing under Jackson's former head coach (John Harbaugh) and the offensive coordinator (Matt Nagy) who got the most out of a second-year Trubisky but not much out of a rookie Fields before he was fired as Bears head coach and play-caller.

The fear for Dart

Revisiting the preseason MVP odds for Baker Mayfield (Browns) in 2019, C.J. Stroud (Texans) in 2024 and Daniels in 2025 — all higher than Dart's in 2026 — tells a story of rookie promise gone awry.

Mayfield, with his offensive coordinator promoted to head coach, jumped from 14 to 21 interceptions.

Stroud slipped from leading the league in passing yards per game and lowest interception rate as a rookie to the middle of both lists. Stroud and Dart are the only rookies since 2017 to throw for at least 15 touchdowns and 2,272 yards with five or fewer interceptions and a rating of 91.7 or higher.

Daniels fell from authoring arguably the greatest-ever rookie quarterback season (12-5 with a 100.1 rating) to a 2-5 record with an 88.1 rating before injuries shut him down.

Mac Jones (Patriots) and Daniel Jones never recovered — at least not until changing teams — from losing alignment with their rookie year play-callers: Josh McDaniels and Pat Shurmur, respectively.

Josh Rosen and the late Dwayne Haskins went from bad to worse, which should not apply to Dart.

Baby steps and tumbles

Michael Penix Jr. (Falcons), Kenny Pickett (Steelers) and Zach Wilson (Jets) technically showed statistical upticks in Year 2, but Dart already cleared their highest bar.

Justin Herbert (Chargers) was so good as a rookie that his encore 97.7 rating with a career-high 38 touchdown passes — again, after a coaching change — represents a slight dip. The same goes for Bo Nix's 87.8 rating on an NFL-high 612 pass attempts while leading the Broncos to the 2025 AFC Championship game.

The Giants would sign for Dart to repeat either Year 2 performance.

Perhaps the most reasonably tempered model for Dart was set by Kyler Murray (Cardinals), whose 2019 Rookie of the Year numbers moderately increased across the board as he lifted the Cardinals into a surprise playoff contender (8-8) — albeit with coaching stability.

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Quest
NFL
ny
6

QB CORRELATION: When researching the 33 first-round quarterbacks drafted from 2016-2024, The Post found the signal-callers who made the biggest strides had a new coach and OC — which bodes well for Jaxson Dart. Noah K. Murray

Liberty stuck in holding pattern

By MADELINE KENNEDY

INDIANAPOLIS — Perhaps there's no better metaphor for the Liberty's season than their travel disruption to Dallas this week.

Weather delays spoiled the team's on-time departure, similar to how injuries and late arrivals hurt New York early on.

Then, mechanical issues with the plane stalled the Liberty in New York, much like how Leonie Fiebich and Satou Sabally's nagging injuries are impacting the team now.

The Liberty switched planes and yet found themselves in a familiar spot — stranded on the tarmac.

The team's charter never took off, nor has its season.

"It sucks, there's no way around it, but it is what it is," Sabrina Ionescu told reporters Friday of the team's travel fiasco. "We got to make a good push before we get a break."

Will the Liberty be able to form some semblance of momentum over the next three games heading into the All-Star break? Or will their potential for greatness be postponed to a later time or canceled altogether?

For an underwhelming 13-11 team with championship aspirations, here are three glaring issues:

Saturday

LIBERTY AT FEVER

8 p.m.
CBS

Wing woes

The Liberty thought they fortified their roster to withstand injuries.

But Betnijah Laney-Hamilton, returning this season after a yearlong layoff because of a knee injury, has struggled to establish herself amid a fluctuating role. Sabally suffered her second concussion in eight months and Fiebich went down with a left foot injury.

A positional group that once looked to be the Liberty's deepest turned shallow.

Sabally's and Fiebich's absences, in particular, are hurting the team on both ends. The Liberty's net rating when Fiebich is on the court is 7.8 and minus-1.7 when she's off it. For Sabally, it's 4.9 when she's on and 3.6 when she's off.

The Liberty's ability to switch on defense takes a hit without them. Opponents' 3-point percentage has inflated over the past two weeks to 38.7 percent — a 6.6 percent increase from the previous 21 games.

SHARP PAINS: Injuries to Satou Sabally have hurt the Liberty's effort to be consistent and regain top form. Heather Khalifa

Drop-off across the board

Ionescu said, "our offense isn't the problem" but the defense needs some work. Meanwhile, coach Chris DeMarco said the "defense has been there, and then we're not capitalizing on offense."

Which is it?

The answer is somewhere in the middle.

Back on June 17, after the Liberty captured their eighth consecutive win, New York ranked fourth in offensive rating (110.2), defensive rating (102.2) and net rating (8.1).

All those numbers have since ballooned in the wrong direction.

Over the past nine games, during which the Liberty have gone 2-7, New York has posted a 107.9 offensive rating (ranked seventh in that span), 110.0 defensive rating (ninth) and minus-2.1 net rating (ninth).

The injuries and lack of lineup continuity have disrupted their ability to build chemistry. But effort, knowing opposing personnel, making smart decisions with the ball, executing the game plan and communicating on defense are all within the Liberty's control.

Late-game execution

The Liberty haven't done themselves any favors over the past three-plus weeks.

They've dug themselves into double-digit holes in each of their past five losses. In their most recent defeats against Minnesota and Toronto, the Liberty fought back and made it interesting in the fourth quarter. Both ended up being two-possession-or-less games down the stretch. New York lost them both.

The Liberty have a negative net rating in clutch situations for the first time in the super team era, which started in 2023.

It's also worth noting that New York has positive point differentials in every quarter except the fourth.

The Liberty's core three veterans are in their fourth season together, but it's their first season playing for DeMarco, who has an almost entirely new staff alongside him.

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BULLETIN BORED

Spain manager avoids making inflammatory comments about Argentina's physical play ahead of final

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL: Argentina's Enzo Fernández tackles Jude Bellingham during their World Cup semifinal showdown Wednesday.
Getty Images

By ETHAN SEARS

Luis de la Fuente had no interest in taking the bait when asked Friday about Argentina's physical — maybe even dirty, suggested the questioner — play.

"Oh, please, no," the Spain manager said. "I would never dare to say that. I respect everybody's opinions and just out of respect, I should say that I have the utmost admiration for this national team."

Fair enough, given de la Fuente's relationship with Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni and given the obvious reasons not to stir the pot in front of the world's media. Nevertheless, and whatever word you want to use to describe it, Argentina's physicality will be an obvious factor in Sunday's World Cup Final.

"I think Sunday's match will be quite different," Spain captain Rodri said. "It will be more physical and we must be prepared."

Indeed. The first half of Argentina's semifinal against England was one of the most physical stretches of soccer of the World Cup, largely thanks to Leandro Paredes, Giuliano Simeone and Enzo Fernández, who went hard into every tackle.

Ismail Elfath, the American referee in charge of that match, didn't intervene until late in the half, when he gave out yellow cards to England's Elliot Anderson and Argentina's Cristian Romero, which brought down the temperature somewhat. While the final shouldn't be as emotionally charged as the semifinal between Argentina and England, given their political history, Slovakian Slavko Vincic — the referee in charge of the final — will have a huge task on his hands.

While phrases like "street football" come with a negative connotation and can be stereotypically applied to South American sides, the physical tone Argentina plays with and the mind games it excels at are very much real.

More than that, they could play a large role in the final, and act as a counter of sorts to Spain's possession-based game.

"Of course each team will try to take the game to their own side," de la Fuente said. "I believe that both Spain and Argentina will have a game plan where talent and good football will rule over everything else."

Still, that side of the game will be something de la Fuente has talked about and planned for, regardless of what he says in public.

"That's part of football," Rodri said. "We will see how the game plays out. I like to think that they are a national team that gives their utmost and they don't go down that way. But if we enter such a stage of the game, obviously we must ignore that and try to play our game so that we don't fall into provocations."

Disappointed France, England square off for 3rd place

By ALANIS THAMES

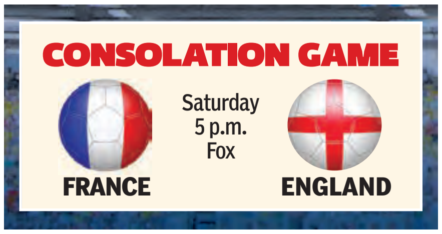
MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — France and England agree on this: Neither team wanted to be playing on Saturday.

France was a favorite to win the World Cup. England was close to ending a decades-long wait for its first World Cup title since 1966.

Both fell one match short of their ultimate goals after losses in the semifinals. And instead of playing in Sunday's final — that game will be between Argentina and Spain — England and France will face each other in a consolation match for third place.

"None of us wanted to play in this game for third place," France defender Ibrahima Konaté said Friday. "But we don't have a choice to play. France and England have a big story together. And yeah, we are looking forward for the game tomorrow, and let's see what will happen."

Though the match will provide little more than moral victories, it may give Thomas Tuchel a chance to regain favor after the England coach faced widespread criticism about his tactical choices in the Three Lions' semifinal loss to Argentina.



CONSOLATION GAME
FRANCE
Saturday
5 p.m.
Fox
ENGLAND

France star Kylian Mbappé also still has a chance to win the Golden Boot, awarded to the tournament's highest scorer.

Mbappé has eight goals, tied with Argentina's Lionel Messi for the tournament lead. Messi has an edge in the tiebreaker with four assists to Mbappé's three. England's Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham are also in the mix with six goals each.

France coach Didier Deschamps said Mbappé is available for Saturday's match but added he will make changes to his regular lineup.

"We do have a match for the third place playoff, and there's a duty," Deschamps said. "We have duties. I have duties, my staff has duties and so do the players. We have a responsibility to wear this jersey for all the French people who are cheering for us."

It will also be the final game for Deschamps as France's coach after 14 years leading the squad. Konaté said the French players want to "pay back our head coach" with one last win.

"He carried many French players," Konaté said. "We had some disappointing moments, but he brought a lot of joy."

France won the World Cup under Deschamps in 2018, lost a gut-wrenching final to Argentina on penalties in 2022, and fell short tactically on Tuesday, when the offensive firepower of Mbappé, Ousmane Dembele and Michael Olise was neutralized by the stout Spanish defense.

Deschamps won one major trophy — albeit the biggest of all — having lost the European Championship final on home soil in 2016.

— *AP*

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Rodri, Spain set sights on taking down Messi, defending Cup champions

By ETHAN SEARS

WORLD CUP FINAL

Sunday
3 p.m.
New York/
New Jersey
Fox

SPAIN **ARGENTINA**

There may not be a more perfect encapsulation of Spain than the fact that its best player at this World Cup doesn't have a goal or assist, isn't in any advertisements and plays a position deep enough that an untrained eye can go 90 minutes without noticing him.

Compared to Lionel Messi, whose teammates sing about winning in honor of and who is spoken about with God-like reverence in every corner of the soccer world, Rodri is the most anonymous Ballon d'Or winner on the planet.

That, though, is the ethos and appeal of Spain, which heads into Sunday's World Cup Final with the chance to knock Argentina off its perch and complete what would be a dominant run to the trophy.

La Roja's very ethos is its collective. It wins games through relentless ball possession and counter-pressing, usually by scorelines that understate its dominance.

Rodri, according to statistics compiled by WhoScored, has amassed 100 touches or more six times at this World Cup. The next-highest player, Argentina's Leandro Paredes, has hit that mark three times. Rodri wins duels, keeps the ball moving and plays a game that is the opposite of flashy. It is perfectly emblematic of his team.

"I've heard at the beginning of the tournament I wasn't able to play," said Rodri, who had a halting season with Manchester City after returning from an ACL injury. "Now that I recovered my shape, I try not to listen too much. I've always been confident in myself.

"I think one of the big parts of my game is trying to replicate this accuracy, intentional passing and being very safe with the ball. Very happy with the development. That's the main thing for me in this tournament, the development individual as a group. We can do it better."

The last line echoes something Spain coach Luis de La Fuente repeatedly has expressed, even after his side's emphatic dismissal of France in the semifinal. He demands constant improvement from his team.

On Friday, not for the first time, de La Fuente, a Roman Empire obsessive who has been reading Marcus Aurelius' "Reflections," returned to a quote from that tome: "What brings no benefit to the hive, brings none to the bee."

"Players should have that mindset where you need to work for the collective good. That makes us stronger," he said. "That is a teaching we shouldn't forget — ever."

To beat an Argentina squad that — as England, Switzerland, Egypt and Cape Verde all have learned — is impossible to kill, Spain will need to lean on those strengths. As much as its possession and strength in midfield allows it to control games, with Rodri, Dani Olmo and Fabián Ruiz forming a dominant trio, the physicality and sheer emotion of Argentina — so much of it tied to Messi — is a factor that no other team in the World Cup has at its disposal.

"Argentina is far more than Messi," Rodri said. "They've proven they're a very complete team with top players."

That is true, and it can be easy to look past the quality that surrounds Messi in favor of his individual contributions. Still, he is the emotional centerpiece and the ethos of his team in a way that is antithetical to Spain.

"I think it goes beyond words what Messi means as a player and what he means for Argentina," Rodri said. "Obviously, for me, he's the greatest of all time. He's a player that has managed to lead his national team and he led his national team in Qatar."

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ALL FOR ONE: Rodri (above) will try to help La Roja overcome Lionel Messi (right), who has seemingly become a one-man show in leading the defending champions back to the finals, in the World Cup title game Sunday.

Getty Images (3)

Unique styles define Final match keepers

By MICHAEL DUARTE

On Sunday afternoon at MetLife Stadium, all eyes will be on Lionel Messi and Lamine Yamal, but the World Cup final could be decided by the two people standing in the center of the nets wearing gloves.

Few World Cup finals have featured two goalkeepers who embody such dramatically different personalities as Argentina's Emi "Dibu" Martínez and Spain's Unai Simón.

One thrives on chaos, turning every save into theater. The other disappears into the background until the moment the match demands he step into the spotlight.

Martínez is one of soccer's greatest showmen. He helped drag Argentina to the 2022 World Cup title with one of the most iconic saves in tournament history, stretching out his left leg to deny France's Randal Kolo Muani in the dying seconds of extra time before making a game-winning save in the penalty shootout that led to him winning the Golden Glove Award. He celebrated that award in unforgettable fashion, cradling the trophy below his waist in a gesture that instantly became one of the most controversial images in World Cup history.

"I conceded three goals in that final. Usually, that means you lose, not win," Martínez said. "But I was able to make that save in the 123rd minute on that breakaway against France. I can concede three goals, but the next play, I have to be the exact same Dibu. Pressure doesn't weigh down on me."

Everything about Martínez is oversized: his emotions, his celebrations, even his appearance. Dibu dyed the side of his hair in the light blue and white of Argentina's flag. When asked about his personality on Friday, Dibu directed the packed auditorium at the Fanatics Fest at Javits Center to his new Netflix documentary "Dibu Martínez: The Kid Who Stops Time."

"Watch my Netflix film. That's where you'll understand everything about me. It's a must-watch, I tell you," he said with a big smile.

He may be a jokester, but on the pitch, he relishes every psychological battle with his opponents, especially in penalty shootouts.

"I feel really calm," he said of his secret. "People think good goalkeepers need to make great saves, but that's not true. You need to simplify things. It's all in your mind. I need to remain calm for my teammates, but be aggressive."

His counterpart's personality is the exact opposite.

Simón has built one of the world's best careers by avoiding attention rather than chasing it. The son of a Spanish Civil Guard officer and a Basque police officer, he carries himself with quiet discipline and remarkable emotional control. He deleted his social media accounts years ago because he said endless praise and criticism clouded his thinking. His silence has become his strength.

Simón entered this World Cup by setting the record for consecutive minutes without conceding a goal before Belgium finally broke through in the quarterfinals. Overall, Spain has surrendered just one goal in seven matches, while recording six clean sheets.

"Unai Simón has shown his ability in this tournament," Germany legend Oliver Kahn said recently. "He's a very calm guy, a good footballer, a good sweeper-keeper. He's reliable and that's the most important factor for a goalkeeper. The team must have the impression that they can rely on him."

Kahn sees something entirely different in Martínez.

"He's a more aggressive goalkeeper with great posture, great presence on the field and enormous reflexes," Kahn said. "He has this conviction that, 'I'm one of the best guys in the world because I saved the World Cup for my team in 2022.' "

Neither approach is wrong. They're simply opposite roads leading to the same destination. One goalkeeper is a thunderstorm. The other is a mountain.

On Sunday, with the World Cup hanging in the balance, only one style will leave New Jersey carrying the Golden Glove and, perhaps, the biggest trophy in sports.

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Emi Martínez

Wildfire haze clouds MetLife title game

By MICHAEL DUARTE

The smoky haze hanging over New York and northern New Jersey has become an unwelcome backdrop for the biggest soccer match in the world.

For the last several days, the massive wildfires in Canada have been sending plumes of smoke across much of the eastern United States, putting the air quality for Sunday's World Cup final center stage before nearly 80,000 fans are expected to gather at MetLife Stadium.

On Thursday, Spanish and Argentine supporters exited the three major New York/New Jersey airports enveloped in a thick smoky haze that smelled like they were inside a campfire. The air quality was so bad that health officials recommended nobody go outdoors for extended periods throughout the weekend, and to wear an N95 mask if they do go outside.

The increasing concern and health risks have created an anxiety that has hung over the World Cup Final like a dark impenetrable cloud. Unlike several other enclosed stadiums across the country where the final could have been held, MetLife Stadium is an open-air complex that will see close to 100,000 people spend more than five hours outdoors.

The good news is that, at least for now, there is cautious optimism.

Weather forecasters expect heavy rain and thunderstorms Saturday to scrub much of the smoke from the atmosphere, improving air quality considerably before Sunday's final. Current projections call for air quality conditions to go from "poor" to "moderate," though meteorologists continue to stress that Sunday's forecast remains fluid. Another huge plume of smoke could arrive from Canada right behind the weekend storm, and whether it settles near the stadium remains the biggest unanswered question.

Meanwhile, Spain opted to train outdoors Thursday in New Jersey even with air quality reaching unhealthy levels, causing respiratory experts to raise concern, especially because Spain arrived earlier than Argentina, accumulating more exposure to the smoky conditions. Argentina chose to remain and train in Atlanta.

"For a game that is as important as a World Cup final, you have to be able to shut out external factors as much as possible," Spain's Mikel Merino, who admitted he could see and smell the smoke, said Friday morning. "Luckily, we are being careful with every detail thanks to the federation and the organizers of the World Cup."

Spain's manager, Luis de la Fuente, did not seem as concerned. "I am more nervous about going back [to the team hotel] by helicopter," he said. "When it comes to everything else, I'm calm. I'm lucky enough to be in this situation and we just want to enjoy this amazing moment."

Hunt, gritty 2B & All-Star Met, dead at age 85

By DAN MARTIN

HE WAS RON TOP OF HIS GAME: Ron Hunt, who in 1964 became the first Met to start in an All-Star Game and also earned All-Star honors in 1966, died Wednesday in his native St. Louis. AP

Ron Hunt, the first Met to start an All-Star Game, died Wednesday in his native St. Louis. He was 85.

Hunt had spent the last month in hospice battling several illnesses, according to the team.

Known for his hard-nosed style of play, Hunt started at second base for the National League in the Midsummer Classic at Shea Stadium in 1964, his second of 12 seasons in the big leagues. He later played for the Dodgers, Giants, Montreal Expos and Cardinals, finishing with 1,429 hits.

A Met from 1963-66, Hunt represented the franchise as an All-Star again in 1966 before being traded to the Dodgers that offseason.

Never afraid of physical contact, Hunt led the NL in getting hit by pitch seven times — and the majors on six occasions. He was drilled 243 times in his career — sixth most in MLB history. When he retired after spring training in 1975, no one had been plunked more than Hunt, and he holds the modern (post-1900) single-season record of 50 HBPs in 1971 while with Montreal.

“Some folks give their bodies to science,” Hunt had said. “I gave mine to baseball.”

Ron Kenneth Hunt was born in St. Louis on Feb. 23, 1941, the only child of Floyd and Bernice Hunt. Hunt was also raised by his grandfather, Walter Gronemeyer, who passed along his passion for baseball.

Hunt signed with the Milwaukee Braves out of Ritenour High School, where he played baseball and football.

His contract was purchased by the Mets after their inaugural 1962 season. After joining the Mets, Hunt went straight to the majors in 1963 and became the starting second baseman.

In that first season, Hunt had 145 hits, 28 doubles, 10 home runs and 42 RBIs, numbers he never surpassed in the rest of his career.

The results were good enough that Hunt finished second in the NL Rookie of the Year voting, losing to Pete Rose.

Hunt made his mark with his tenacity between the lines. As a 22-year-old rookie, he led the Mets with 13 HBPs that season.

As he explained to The Post’s Ken Davidoff in 2018, “I found out I could get hit by the ball, so I worked on it in front of a mirror. I’d give, give, give, and if it broke over the plate, I’d foul it off. I got hit [on] a lot of 3-and-1 pitches. The pitchers said if I got to 3-and-1, they might as well hit me because I could foul balls off.”

Hunt’s physicality, which endeared him forever to fans, had a down side, as it helped lead to as many as 16 baseball-related surgeries and may have contributed to the onset of Parkinson’s disease, the incurable neurodegenerative disorder that plagued him in his later years.

“I can tell you, considering what he did for a living and looking at him now, it’s really hard to stomach. It really is,” Tracy Hunt, his daughter, told The Post in 2018.

Hunt didn’t just lack fear in the batter’s box. It was also true when he was playing the infield and running the bases.

On May 11, 1965, in a game against St. Louis at Shea Stadium, Hunt collided with the Cardinals’ Phil Gagliano as he fielded a grounder at second base. He was sidelined for nearly three months while recovering from injuries to his head and shoulder.

On Aug. 6, 1969, while with the Giants at Philadelphia’s Connie Mack Stadium, Hunt scored from first base on a double by Willie Mays. During the play, he was hit in the head as he slid into home plate by a relay throw from Phillies infielder Cookie Rojas. He stayed overnight in Philadelphia for observation but played three days later in San Francisco.

Hunt also was hit in the head by a Tom Seaver pitch against the Mets later that month and again sent to the hospital.

Despite the possible link between his style of play and his Parkinson’s diagnosis, Hunt said in 2018 he had no regrets.

“Hell no,” Hunt said. “I’m still married.”

Hunt was surrounded by stars throughout his career, first playing for Casey Stengel in Queens, where he was teammates with former Dodger Duke Snider. He also played with Mays, Warren Spahn, Willie McCovey and Keith Hernandez, who made his MLB debut with the Cardinals in 1974, Hunt’s final season.

It was the Mets with whom he made a lasting impression, and it didn’t take long for him to do so.

In his April 19, 1963, home debut at the Polo Grounds, Hunt hit a walk-off, two-run double with one out in the bottom of the ninth to give the Mets their first win after opening the season with eight straight losses.

All-Star appearances followed in ’64 and ’66 before he was shipped to Los Angeles, along with Jim Hickman, in exchange for Tommy Davis and Derrell Griffith.

“I thought I was going to be a Met all my life,” Hunt said in 2018. “But they screwed me.”

Despite the bitter ending with the organization, Hunt made it to Citi Field on more than one occasion.

Hunt is survived by wife Jackie, daughter Tracy and son Ron Jr.

COOL HAND LUKE

Weaver unworried about upcoming trade deadline, being a top target

By DAN MARTIN

PHILADELPHIA — While most teams in the watered-down majors are at least considering holding onto their trade assets as the Aug. 3 deadline approaches, the Mets — even after opening the second half with a win over the Phillies — appear ready to sell.

One of the names at the top of the list, Luke Weaver, said he knows his days as a Met might be numbered, but he’d still like to stay with the team that signed him to a two-year deal last offseason.

“I committed to come here to give everything I’ve got for the two years,” Weaver said before Thursday’s win, during which he allowed his first earned run since April.

“I try to help this organization any way I can and if they see that same vision and continue to feel that confidence, then, amazing,” Weaver said. “But I understand how this game works. I’ve been a part of those situations, so I guess I’m mentally prepared from experience, but I’m not too focused on it.”

Weaver is the most valuable of the Mets’ bullpen arms, with left-handers A.J. Minter and Brooks Raley also potential trade targets, as well as right-hander Huascar Brazobán.

And then there are Freddy Peralta and Clay Holmes.

Holmes, out since mid-May with a fractured right fibula, is set to begin a minor league rehab assignment Saturday with High-A Brooklyn.

Weaver is having a stellar season in an otherwise miserable year with the Mets. In 38 appearances, he has an 0.825 WHIP and brings significant playoff experience for a contending team.

He almost certainly won’t pitch in a meaningful game for the Mets this season and noted he’s been in similar situations more than once in his career.

Amazin's used AI on iPads in dugout

By DAN MARTIN

The Mets were among the teams found to have exploited a loophole regarding the use of artificial intelligence for in-game decisions during the first half of the season, sources told The Post.

Major League Baseball banned the practice beginning Wednesday.

The crackdown was issued in a June 11 memo to teams but wasn't put in place until the day before the second half of the season began following the All-Star break.

As first reported by The Athletic, MLB found that some teams were using league-issued iPads in the dugout "beyond their originally intended purpose to include recommendations regarding substitutions, pitch calling, and other in-game decisions traditionally made by players and coaches."

The memo, from MLB executive vice president of baseball operations Morgan Sword and obtained by The Post, was sent to general managers, assistant GMs and video coordinators.

The tablets, which still will be permitted in dugouts, give teams access to league-provided Statcast information, as well as multiple video angles and data related to the automated ball-strike system.

Video accessed during the game in the dugout is only available on delay.

The custom tab allowed teams to access other programs and will no longer be accessible.

The move could impact teams that began calling pitches from the dugout, a trend that has become more widespread this season.

It will no doubt have other impacts as teams throughout the league have relied more heavily on analytics in all aspects of the game.

MLB has permitted the use of iPads in dugouts for over a decade and noted in the memo that a review earlier this year showed that teams were "compliant" with rules regarding sign stealing and electronic device usage, so no penalties were handed out.

Teams were essentially given a month to stop using AI for in-game decision-making purposes "to make any necessary adjustments."

— Additional reporting by Joel Sherman

MAN IN DEMAND: Reliever Luke Weaver, making a reasonable $9.5 million and signed through next season, is one of the Mets most likely to be moved ahead of the Aug. 3 trade deadline. Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

"Do I wonder what's gonna happen? Sure," Weaver said. "But I don't give too much time to it. I've been traded twice. I know it's a real thing. It's a real emotional roller coaster, and in-season is way harder than the offseason, for obvious reasons. But business is business."

Making a reasonable $9.5 million this season and $12.5 million in 2027 — barring a work stoppage — Weaver is an attractive target.

"With things like the trade deadline, if you have expectations about what's gonna happen, you just make things harder because you can't control it," Weaver said. "I try to stay as elite as I can."

As Weaver has noted, he's been on bad teams in his career as well as good ones, and he's gone from a struggling starter to a valuable reliever.

There's little he hasn't seen, which makes him content to stay in Queens and OK if he leaves.

"My commitment is here," Weaver said. "I have a rental house that I put two years on. My family is used to the drive. I'm just happy to play baseball for a living."

Unlike some of the other moveable parts the Mets have — whether it's Holmes having not pitched in a game in more than two months, Peralta struggling in his first season in New York following the offseason trade from Milwaukee or the other bullpen arms that could go — Weaver carries just about no downside.

"I'm focused on what's actually happening in the moment," Weaver said. "I think that's the only way to look at it."

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ON DECK: at Phillies

Saturday, 4:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

LHP Sean Manaea	LHP Jesús Luzardo
2026 stats: 2-4, 4.56 ERA	**2026 stats:** 8-4, 3.51 ERA
Career vs. PHI: 2-3, 5.05 ERA	**Career vs. NYM:** 6-2, 3.16 ERA
Last start: July 9, vs. KC; 7 IP, 2 ER, 6 K	**Last start:** July 9, at CIN; IP, 0 ER, 11 K
PITCH BREAKDOWN	**PITCH BREAKDOWN**
35% 4-Seamer 32% Sweeper 21% Sinker	37% Sweeper 25% 4-Seamer 20% Changeup

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: at Phillies, 1:35 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Nolan McLean vs. RHP Alan Rangel

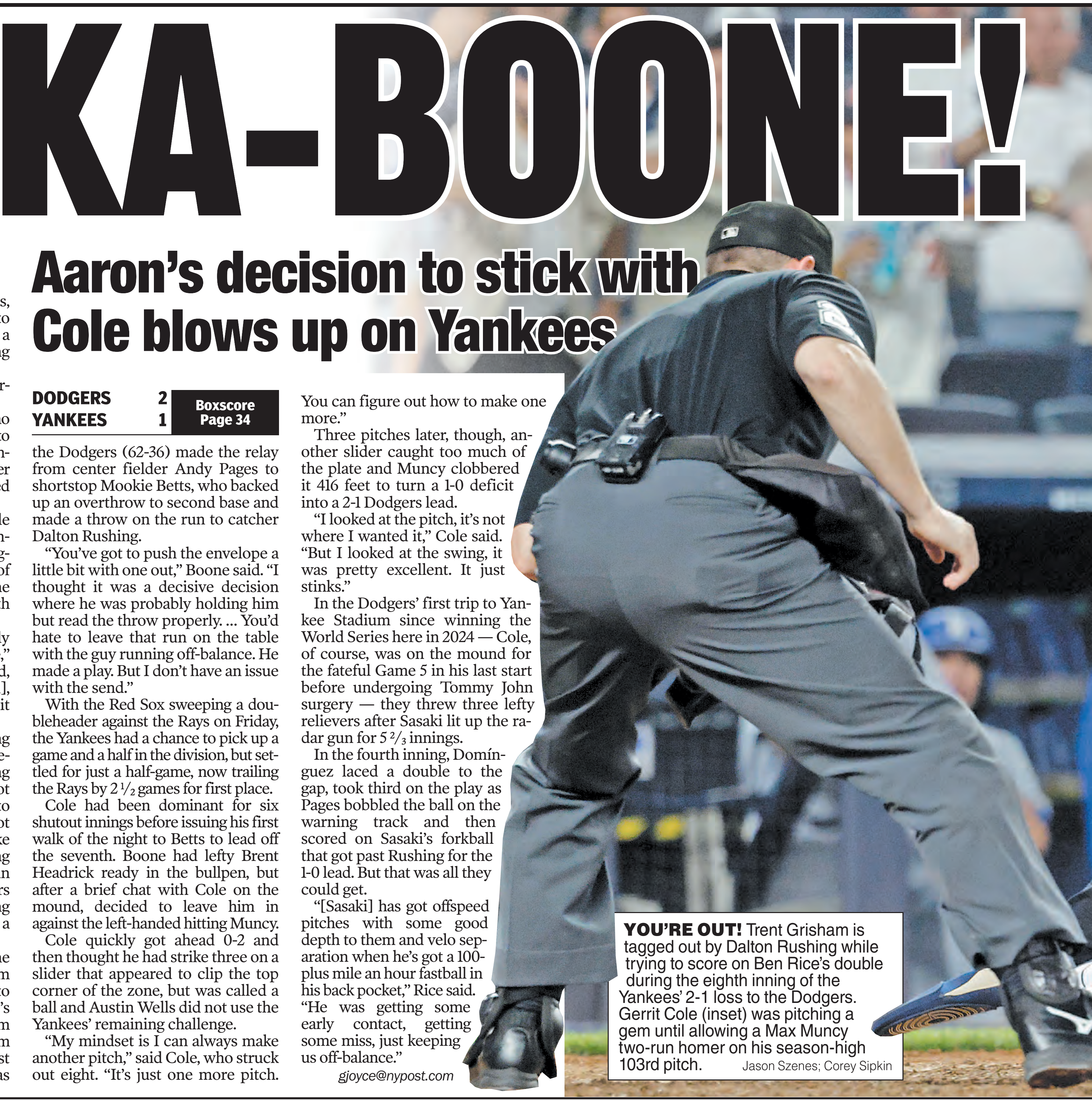
MONDAY: at Brewers, 7:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Freddy Peralta vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Luis Robert Jr.** (lumbar disc herniation) took another step toward a return to the Mets, as he started in center field at Triple-A Syracuse on Friday night.

KA-BOONE!

Aaron's decision to stick with Cole blows up on Yankees



YOU'RE OUT! Trent Grisham is tagged out by Dalton Rushing while trying to score on Ben Rice's double during the eighth inning of the Yankees' 2-1 loss to the Dodgers. Gerrit Cole (inset) was pitching a gem until allowing a Max Muncy two-run homer on his season-high 103rd pitch. Jason Szenes; Corey Sipkin

By GREG JOYCE

DODGERS 2
YANKEES 1

Boxscore Page 34

Gerrit Cole had the magic words, or look, to convince Aaron Boone to leave him in the game during a mound visit in the seventh inning Friday night.

But that is just about where his sorcery ran out.

With the tying run on first and no outs, Cole remained in the game to face Max Muncy and on his season-high 103rd pitch of the night left a slider over the heart of the plate that ended up in the second deck in right field.

Muncy's two-run shot off Cole flipped the game and dealt the Yankees a crushing 2-1 loss to the Dodgers in front of a sold-out crowd of 46,450 in The Bronx, snapping the four-game winning streak with which they finished the first half.

"Obviously in hindsight, I probably should have grabbed him there," Boone said. "That's on me. ... I said, 'You got one more in you?' [He said], 'Yeah.' Sometimes you got to take it out of their hands."

The Yankees (54-43), continuing life without Aaron Judge for the foreseeable future after his reimaging during the All-Star break did not show enough healing to allow him to start baseball activities, could not provide enough run support to make Cole's only mistake of the night sting less. They mustered just one run against Roki Sasaki and the Dodgers bullpen, coming in the fourth inning when Jasson Domínguez scored on a passed ball.

They had a chance to tie it in the eighth inning, but Trent Grisham was thrown out at the plate trying to score from first base on Ben Rice's double with an aggressive send from third-base coach Luis Rojas. Grisham did not immediately bust it from first base, which came back to cost him as the Dodgers (62-36) made the relay from center fielder Andy Pages to shortstop Mookie Betts, who backed up an overthrow to second base and made a throw on the run to catcher Dalton Rushing.

"You've got to push the envelope a little bit with one out," Boone said. "I thought it was a decisive decision where he was probably holding him but read the throw properly. ... You'd hate to leave that run on the table with the guy running off-balance. He made a play. But I don't have an issue with the send."

With the Red Sox sweeping a doubleheader against the Rays on Friday, the Yankees had a chance to pick up a game and a half in the division, but settled for just a half-game, now trailing the Rays by 2 $^1/_2$ games for first place.

Cole had been dominant for six shutout innings before issuing his first walk of the night to Betts to lead off the seventh. Boone had lefty Brent Headrick ready in the bullpen, but after a brief chat with Cole on the mound, decided to leave him in against the left-handed hitting Muncy.

Cole quickly got ahead 0-2 and then thought he had strike three on a slider that appeared to clip the top corner of the zone, but was called a ball and Austin Wells did not use the Yankees' remaining challenge.

"My mindset is I can always make another pitch," said Cole, who struck out eight. "It's just one more pitch. You can figure out how to make one more."

Three pitches later, though, another slider caught too much of the plate and Muncy clobbered it 416 feet to turn a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 Dodgers lead.

"I looked at the pitch, it's not where I wanted it," Cole said. "But I looked at the swing, it was pretty excellent. It just stinks."

In the Dodgers' first trip to Yankee Stadium since winning the World Series here in 2024 — Cole, of course, was on the mound for the fateful Game 5 in his last start before undergoing Tommy John surgery — they threw three lefty relievers after Sasaki lit up the radar gun for 5 $^2/_3$ innings.

In the fourth inning, Domínguez laced a double to the gap, took third on the play as Pages bobbled the ball on the warning track and then scored on Sasaki's forkball that got past Rushing for the 1-0 lead. But that was all they could get.

"[Sasaki] has got offspeed pitches with some good depth to them and velo separation when he's got a 100-plus mile an hour fastball in his back pocket," Rice said. "He was getting some early contact, getting some miss, just keeping us off-balance."

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New images show 'some healing' in Judge's right rib,

By GREG JOYCE

The Yankees waited six weeks for reimaging on Aaron Judge's right rib, only to essentially be told: Try again soon.

The back-to-back AL MVP underwent imaging Wednesday that showed healing in his rib, but not enough to clear him for baseball activities just yet. He and the team were still waiting to hear back from a rib specialist to see if he might be able to get the green light to at least begin some upper-body exercises, which would represent a minor win since he has not been able to do any of them for the six weeks since he was diagnosed with the injury.

As of Friday afternoon, though, Judge remained in a holding pattern as the Yankees opened the second half of the season without him — as they will continue to be for the foreseeable future.

"Definitely a positive sign that we're seeing some healing," Judge said. "Part of it's healing, the other part of it's still trying to bridge together. I think that's what we're trying, to wait and see if we can get some confirmation of what we can start doing."

Judge indicated he was "definitely" confident he will still be able to get back on the field this year — "I don't see why not," he said — which manager Aaron Boone echoed.

"I feel good about the fact that he'll be back," Boone said. "But it's just a matter of when."

It remains to be seen how long Judge would need to get himself ready to play in games once he is cleared to resume baseball activities, though at this point, getting back sometime in August might be wishful thinking.

General manager Brian Cashman cautioned last week that the Yankees did not expect Judge's rib to be fully healed yet. But they were at least hoping he would be cleared to do more than the lower-body exer-

Montefiore Einstein Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

Sound Dodgers school Bombers once more

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Yet again in a game between these two teams, the Dodgers were perfect when they needed to be, and yet again the Yankees were not.

The difference in Friday's series opener — the first time the pair matched up in The Bronx since a 2024 World Series that Aaron Boone's group will forever regret — may have been a standout defensive play by the Dodgers and a base-running play by the Yankees that was not good enough.

In a game the Dodgers were leading 2-1 — which would be the final score — Ben Rice clubbed a double off the wall in right-center in the eighth inning. With one out, Trent Grisham did not fully take off from first base until it was clear the ball was landing.

It looked as if he slowed up a touch going from second to third, which Grisham denied. If he was surprised third base coach Luis Rojas waved him home — an aggressive send, if understandable considering the Yankees' offensive struggles — he denied it.

What he did acknowledge was being "conscious" of his hamstring, which he strained in June and caused him to miss three weeks into July.

Regardless, Grisham said he "picked up" Rojas great, rounded third base and was beaten to the plate because the defense behind him was excellent.

Andy Pages, who boasts among the best outfield arms in the game, threw hard but inaccurately, forcing Mookie Betts to sprint from shallow center field toward where he began the play at shortstop. Betts caught the ball on the run and quickly relayed home while running toward third base. Catcher Dalton Rushing backhanded up the first-base line and quickly moved his arm across his body and threw his glove down, hitting Grisham's cleat as Grisham tried to sneak his foot across.

"It was bang-bang," said Grisham, but yet again, the Dodgers were just a little bit better.

If Rojas held up Grisham, the Yankees would have had runners on second and third with one out and No. 3 hitter Paul Goldschmidt due up to face lefty Alex Vesia (although the Dodgers likely would have walked the lefty killer and set up Cody Bellinger with the bases loaded).

"I thought Luis actually did a good job in reading the throw that it was going over the second baseman's head, and Mookie was kind of on the run to have to go make the play," Boone said, "and made a pretty good throw on the run.

"So, don't have an issue with taking the shot there."

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More Yankees / P. 43

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INJURY REPORT

- **Max Fried** (left elbow bone bruise) began a rehab assignment Friday night with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, the first of two starts he is set to make before he could potentially rejoin the Yankees.
- **Clarke Schmidt** (Tommy John surgery) is scheduled to face hitters Saturday for the first time in his rehab process, just over a year removed from UCL surgery on his right elbow.

ON DECK

vs. Dodgers

Saturday, 8:08 p.m., Fox, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Ryan Weathers

2026 stats:
3-7, 4.15 ERA

Career vs. LAD:
0-3, 5.46 ERA

Last start:
July 10, at WSN; 5.1 IP, 1 ER, 6 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

27%	24%	20%
4-Seamer	Change	Sweeper

RHP Emmet Sheehan

2026 stats:
4-6, 4.81 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
First start

Last start:
July 12, vs. ARI; 5.1 IP, 2 ER, 7 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

43%	30%	16%
4-Seamer	Slider	Change

UP NEXT

SUN.: vs. Dodgers, 7:20 p.m., NBC/Peacock, WFAN
RHP Cam Schlittler vs. RHP Yoshinobu Yamamoto

MON.: vs. Pirates, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

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but not enough to resume baseball activities

cises he has been limited to since the start of June.

That said, they do not want to push Judge too soon because if he were to suffer a setback, it could potentially jeopardize his ability to play again this season.

"[There were a] couple weeks that were tough, really couldn't do a lot, but now we're feeling 10 times better," Judge said. "That was my big complaint, 'Well, if I'm feeling better, how about we start moving?' But I think they just don't want to start adding baseball activities and other stuff and all of a sudden we have a setback and it pushes everything back. I think they want to be sure it's healing up the right way so we can get back as soon as we can."

Asked if he would need the equivalent of spring training (six weeks) once he does start baseball activities, Judge indicated he was hoping for a shorter runway — including not wanting to "waste" at-bats in a rehab assignment, though skipping one altogether seems unlikely and it is still well off in the distance.

Before they opened the second half with a 2-1 loss to the Dodgers, the Yankees were still waiting to hear back from Dr. Gregory Pearl — the same specialist they consulted with for the original diagnosis — to determine what Judge will be able to do in the coming days and when his next round of imaging would be. Since the beginning of June, he has mostly been limited to lower-body exercises like walking on the treadmill, and briefly riding an exercise bike before they "shied away from that."

Montefiore Einstein Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

Courtesy Everett Collection

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"Mile End Kicks" (Netflix) is ultimately a likeable, if contrived variation on a familiar rom-com-dramedy theme. **Barbie Ferreira** (left) manages to be broadly appealing, playing against type. **OUR CALL: STREAM IT**

WHAT TO WATCH

Though Prime Video's **"My Lady Jane"** was advertised as a girlboss rewrite of Tudor history, it is is actually a romantasy series where Lady Jane Grey (**Emily Bader**, left) is married to a hot guy (Edward Bluemel) cursed to spend his days as a horse. However what makes this steamy fantasy show all the more addicting is its stellar all-star cast of British greats.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

THE NOSE THAT KNOWS

'House of the Dragon' star James Norton reveals Ormund Hightower's go-to fragrance

By MEGHAN O'KEEFE

James Norton (left) stars in "House of the Dragon" with Benjamin Evan Ainsworth (below left).

Ollie Upton/HBO

Ormund Hightower (James Norton) might be the most delicious addition to **"House of the Dragon"** Season 3. From the moment the brilliant Hightower commander stepped out of his tent in the Season 3 premiere and began sniffing his ornate pomander, fans of the HBO hit have been obsessed with his cunning personality and wildly dramatic flair.

"Ormund is talked about in the book, but it's quite clinical, sort of a bird's eye view of him. We know about him and his family and where he sits in the family tree, but we don't know so much about his personality," Norton told DECIDER. "It was actually really lovely, because we had a bit of a blank slate to work with."

"Ryan [Condal] and the other creators were really collaborative in asking me — you know, they showed their intent early on in wanting to make him delicious, and eccentric, and dangerous, and just give him lots of different facets and make him inherently unpredictable."

Alicent (Olivia Cooke) tells Rhaenyra (Emma D'Arcy) in the show that Ormund "sees himself as a scholar," and that he "despises the ignorant and uncouth." Alicent also added that her brother Gwayne (Freddie Fox) thought Ormund was "cruel" in their youth.

When Fox spoke to DECIDER last month, he said that Gwayne had "respect for Ormund's, albeit, slightly Machiavellian intelligence," but added that the two Hightowers "have very different world views on how [Benjamin Evan Ainsworth's Daeron Targaryen] should be influenced."

The other big thing we know about Ormund? He has a heightened sensitivity to smell and obsessively sniffs a pomander he carries on him at all times.

"For me, the smell — the pomander thing —was really crucial because, yes, it's playful and it can be used against him, et cetera, all those things, and it's a quirk, but also it speaks to a personality trait which is vulnerable and dangerous," Norton said. "If someone who's in a position of authority is that vulnerable to losing control... Because control is obviously incredibly important to him, whether it's smell, taste, clothes. He is incredibly Type A, OCD, like he needs everything to be in a very particular way. If it doesn't, if it's not in that way, what the hell happens? And of course, we see what happens in Episode 4."

Norton is of course referring to a scene in which Ormund receives bad news from Gwayne, who has arrived at Harrenhal to discover Aemond (Ewan Mitchell) and Vhagar fled. Daeron notices a flicker of rage before anyone else does and insists another page leave at once. Ormund explodes, hacking at a table with his Valyrian steel sword, Vigilance.

"So yes, it's playful, but it does speak to a kind of particular pathology, I guess, which is, as an actor, really interesting to play with," Norton said, before admitting he can relate to Ormund in this way.

"I know what that is. I have this weird thing with chewing gum. I cannot abide people chewing gum near my ear because it makes me — and I've looked it up and it's a thing — and it makes me feel unbelievably nervous and scared and angry and all the rest of it," Norton then joked. "So, yeah, me and Ormund are the same person, basically."

But what exactly is Ormund sniffing when he wafts that silver pomander under his highborn nose?

"In terms of what the smell is, again, testament — I know probably a lot of people talk about this, but this show, the dedication from each team and department is like second to none," Norton said. "At one point, I was shown three different trays with all these different *apparati* on them. It was a scene where I fill the pomander, and there were all these spices, and dried fruits, and herbs, and a pestle and mortar, and I got to choose what the tray looked like, what was on it, and then I have a scene where I'm literally like breaking it all up. They were all real, all the spices, all the herbs, all real."

So what is "*Eau de Ormund*"? "The actual smell is lavender oil, because every day the props department — again, incredible detail, no one will ever know this apart from me — but they would spray the pomander with lavender," he said. "So every day, every time I'm smelling, I'm smelling delicious lavender oil. So, I guess lavender is my scent."

Ormund might need to stock up on that soothing scent soon because "House of the Dragon" is setting up the cataclysmic (first!) Battle of Tumbleton.

Lauren "Lo" Smith/Paramount+

TRENDING NOW

Paramount+ dropped the trailer for **"Lioness"** Season 3, teasing the return of Joe (**Zoe Saldaña**, far left) in an action-packed new installment. "Lioness" Season 3 premieres on Sunday, Aug. 2.

WHAT'S NEW

ON HALLMARK CHANNEL
"Snowbound for the Holidays," starring **Marcus Rosner** and **Vanessa Lengies** (left).

ON NETFLIX
"Spooky in Love," a Korean supernatural romantic comedy series.

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

THRILLER

Jaws: 7 p.m. on AMC. Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw. A killer shark unleashes chaos and it's up to the chief, a biologist, and a seafarer to hunt the beast.

ACTION

Rush Hour: 10 p.m. on TNT. Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker. A Hong Kong Inspector teams up with a L.A.P.D. detective to rescue the Chinese Consul's daughter.

ADVENTURE

Men in Black III: 10:31 p.m. on SYFY. Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones. Agent J travels in time to stop an alien from assassinating his friend Agent K.

Saturday July 18, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS   Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Weekend News	Alex Scott:Hope	WNBA Tip-Off Live.	WNBA Basketball: New York Liberty at Indiana Fever from Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Live.				48 Hours: The Footprint (R)		CBS News 11pm	1JD Films Presents
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Paid Program	LX.TV: 1st Look	American Ninja Warrior: Eastern Regional Finals (R)				Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11	Saturday Night Live
5 WNYW	5	5	5	FIFA World Cup Live.	FIFA World Cup Postgame Live.		MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees from Yankee Stadium. Live.						The 10 O'Clock News	
7 WABC	7	7	7	(6:00) News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	The Rookie: Burn 4 Love (R)		The Rookie: Baja (R)		The Rookie: Fun and Games (R)		Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Paid Program	Paid Program	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Finally Caught: Lipscomb (R)		In Depth	Wonderama
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	I Am Johnny Cash (2014): A journey through the life, music and artistic expression of Johnny Cash.				PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		Seinfeld: The Cafe	Seinfeld: The Tape
13 WNET	13	13	13	GZero World	Ireland in Music	Inspector George Gently: The Lost Child			Singin' in the Rain (1952, Musical) Gene Kelly. G ★★★½			(10:48) Alec Guiness: A Class Act (2024, Profile)		
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Compass	Drive By	Firing (R)	Midsomer Murders: Last Year's Mo.			(9:35) Velvet: Sky High (R)			Ireland	Papa Ray's
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Walkin NYC	Hospitality and Politics		92Y on NYCLife		Letter of Introduction (1938) NR ★★			Mack	Profiles	GZero
31 WPXN	31	3	531	NWSL Soccer: Angel City FC at Chicago Stars. Live.				NWSL Soccer: Utah Royals FC at Orlando Pride.				NWSL Live.	Law & Order: SVU	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	Piensa Rápido		Fútbol	Fútbol Liga MX: Santos Laguna vs Monterrey.					Fútbol Liga MX	
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Mundial 26	Todo el Mundial Directo.		Fútbol Estelar Directo.		Fútbol Liga MX: Toluca vs Guadalajara. Directo.				Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Pawn Stars	Last Man	Last Man	Fire Country: False Alarm		NCIS: Hawai'i: The Game		Judge Judy	Paid	Women Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	Storage (R)	Storage Wars		Storage Wars: Back		Storage Wars		(10:01) Storage Wars (R)		(11:04) Storage Wars (R)	
AMC	54	43	231	Jaws 2 ★★½	Jaws (1975, Thriller) Roy Scheider. PG ★★★½						Jaws 2 (1978, Thriller) Roy Scheider. PG ★★½			
BBCAM	71	101	189	House Down	The Beekeeper (2024, Action) Jason Statham. R					Wrath of Man (2021, Thriller) Jason Statham. R ★★★				
BET	37	54	270	Equalizer	The Equalizer: Slay Ride		The Equalizer		The Equalizer		Norbit (2007, Comedy) Eddie Murphy. PG-13 ★½			
BRAVO	18	44	185	Jurassic	Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (2017, Action) Dwayne Johnson. PG-13 ★★★						Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)	
CNBC	15	24	102	Deadly (R)	Deadly Rich: My Name		Deadly Rich (R)		Deadly Rich (R)		Deadly Rich (R)		Deadly Rich (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		Royal Fever		American Prince: JFK Jr.		American Prince: JFK Jr.		American Prince: JFK Jr.	
COMEDY	45	50	190	The Wedding Singer (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler.				50 First Dates (2004, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★★				Blended (2014) Adam Sandler. ★★½		
DISC	66	27	120	Naked (R)	Naked and Afraid (R)		Naked and Afraid: Everglades Thirst Trap (R)				Naked and Afraid: Predatorland (R)			
DISNEY	49	31	250	(6:15) Bluey	Descendants: Wicked Wonderland			Dragon	Dragon	Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	(6:00) Catch Me If You Can (2002, Comedy) Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks.						Fast X (2023, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★½				
ESPN	28	36	70	NBA Live.	NBA Summer League Basketball: Teams TBA Live.				NBA Summer League Basketball: Teams TBA Live.				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	(6:00) SEC Storied			Fighters League: PFL Austin (Main Card) Live.				ESPN FC		Last Train	Last Train
FBN	43	106	117	Dream Car	My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car	
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		My View with Lara Trump		Fox News Saturday Night		Gutfeld! (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Pitmasters: Meat Your Competition			Diners	Diners	Diners
FREE	38	49	199	Indiana Jones Crusade		Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) Harrison Ford. ★★½						Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny		
FS1	400	99	83	Indycar	Indycar NICS Practice		NHRA Pro Stock Series		2026 FIFA World Cup: France at England. Taped.				Indycar NICS Practice	
FX	10	40	53	(5:30) Avengers: Infinity War (2018, Action) Robert Downey Jr. ★★★½					Avengers: Endgame (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr. PG-13 ★★★★					
HALL		191	240	(6:00) We Met in December (2025)			Snowbound for the Holidays (2026) Vanessa Lengies.				Christmas Under Construction (2026)			
HGTV	64	98	165	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	History's	History's Grea. (R)		History's Grea.: Mission		(9:02) History's Grea. (R)		(10:05) History's Grea. (R)		(11:05) History's Grea. (R)	
ID	23	171	123	A Killer	A Killer Among Friends		Married with Secrets		Married with Secrets		Hitchhiking Horror		Married with Secrets	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) Dying in Plain Sight (2023) NR			Crowning at the Prom (2026, Mystery)				(10:03) He Couldn't Let Go (2026, Thriller)			
MeTV	33	33	3	Stooges	Stooges	Stooges	Swamp Thing (1982, Science Fiction) Louis Jourdan. PG ★★½					Batman	Star Trek: A Private War	
MSG	27	87	78	(6:00) UFA	The Coaches Corner		USL Soccer: Westchester SC at Union Omaha. Live.				FIFA 2026		The Coaches Corner	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	INTENNSE	INTENNSE Tennis: Ridge vs. Outriders Live.				The Wager	The Wager	Team Boxing League: LA Elite @ Phoenix Fury Live.			
MSNOW	14	23	103	The Beat	The Weekend		Connect with Jacob		Crooked on MS NOW		Rachel Maddow		Lawrence O'Donnell	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004) PG-13 ★★★				We're the Millers (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. R ★★★					Dodgeball
NATGEO	65	162	121	Shark (R)	Bull vs. Hammer (R)		Great White vs. Tiger (R)		Orca vs. Great White (R)		Sharks Up Close (R)		Hammerhead Up (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water (2015)				Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) Heart	Heart & Hustle: Houston		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Belle Collective		Belle Collective		Heart & Hustle: Houston	
PARMT	36	56	54	Hallows 1	(6:55) Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (2011, Fantasy)					(9:50) Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (2016) ★★★½				
SNY	26	60	77	MLB Game	Post Game	Yeah ...	Mets Specials: The Wright Way				Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:30) Angels & Demons (2009, Thriller) Tom Hanks.				Men in Black II (2002, Action) Tommy Lee Jones. ★★				Men in Black III (2012) Will Smith. ★★★		
TBS	8	39	52	(5:45) Uncle Buck (1989, Comedy) ★★★			Central Intelligence (2016, Comedy) Kevin Hart. ★★★				(10:04) San Andreas (2015, Action) Dwayne Johnson.			
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) The Wrong Man (1956, Thriller)			American Pop (1981) Ron Thompson. R			(9:45) Fame (1980, Drama) Eddie Barth, Irene Cara. R ★★½				
TLC	52	28	139	Jay & Pam	90 Day: Last (R)		90 Day: Last (R)		90 Day: Last (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(6:00) Rush Hour 3 (2007, Comedy) ★★½			All Elite Wrestling: Collision: Collision 7/18/2026 Live.				Rush Hour (1998, Action) Jackie Chan. PG-13 ★★★			
TVLAND	85	34	241	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) Fire	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire: Fire Cop		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire	
VH1	19	52	217	(6:00) Breakin' All the Rules (2004) ★★½			My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Joe Pesci. R ★★★					Maid in Manhattan (2002) PG-13 ★★		
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Dead & Unburied		NCIS: Witch Hunt		NCIS: Sandblast		NCIS: Once a Hero		NCIS: Twisted Sister	
YES	53	89	76	Yankees	Home Plate	Homegrown	Bronx Beat	Yankees	Brooklyn	My Number	Home Plate	Home Plate	Postgame	Sportico
HBO	511	301	400	(6:22) Legally Blonde (2001, Comedy)			Marc by Sofia (2026) PG-13			Undertone (2026, Horror) Nina Kiri. R			(11:05) Of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	The Wolfman (2010) R ★★		(7:43) Pacific Rim: Uprising (2018, Action) John Boyega, Scott Eastwood. PG-13 ★★½								
MGM Plus	595		395	(5:45) The Running Man (2025, Action)			Cold Storage (2026) Joe Keery. R			(9:40) Project Hail Mary (2026, Drama) Ryan Gosling. PG-13				
PARSHO	551	321	365	Shooter R	Deepwater Horizon (2016, Thriller) Dylan O'Brien. ★★★				The Dutchman (2026) André Holland. R			(10:35) The Commuter (2018, Thriller)		

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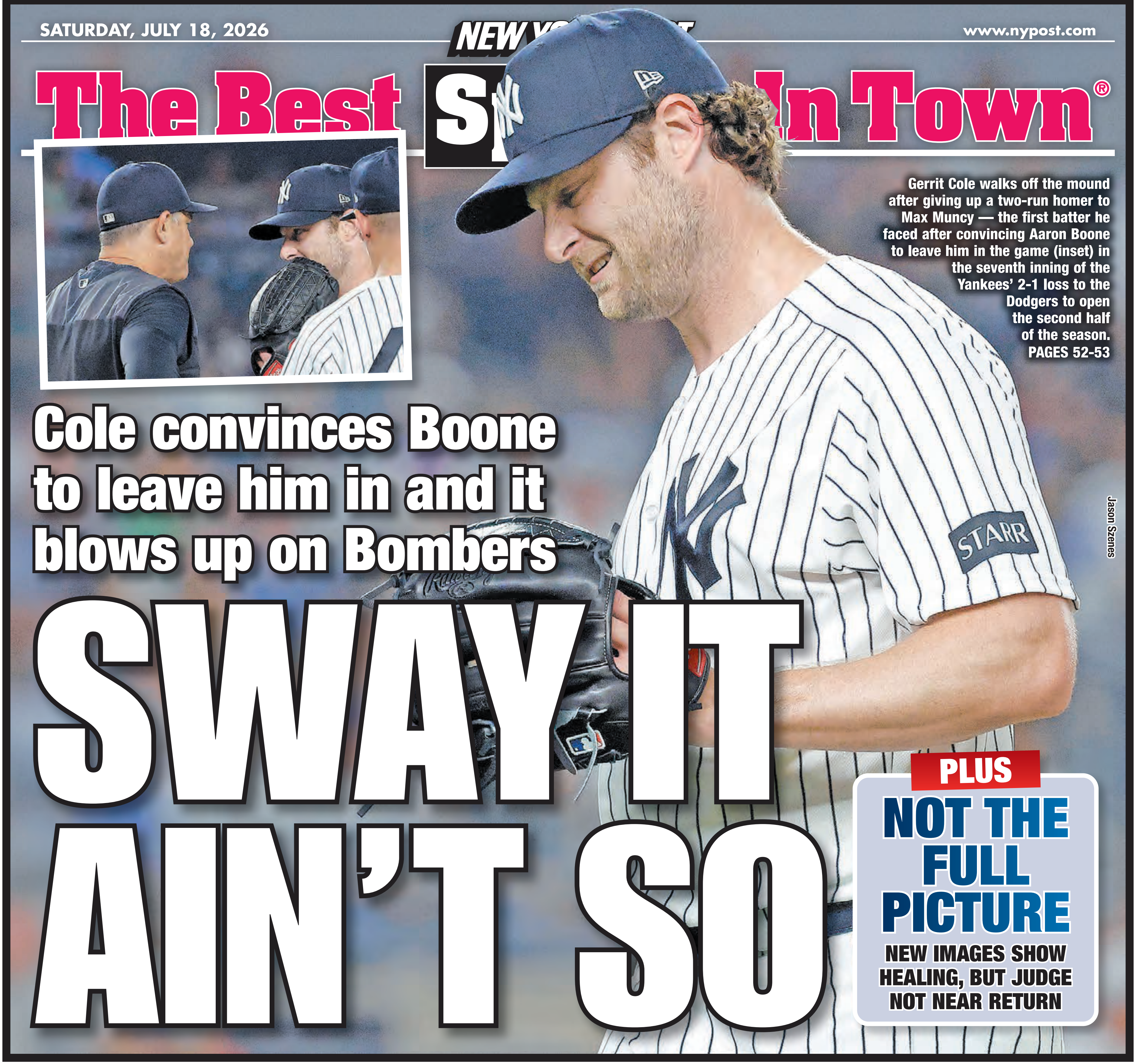

Gerrit Cole walks off the mound after giving up a two-run homer to Max Muncy — the first batter he faced after convincing Aaron Boone to leave him in the game (inset) in the seventh inning of the Yankees' 2-1 loss to the Dodgers to open the second half of the season.

PAGES 52-53

Jason Szenes

Cole convinces Boone to leave him in and it blows up on Bombers

SWAY IT AIN'T SO

PLUS

NOT THE FULL PICTURE

NEW IMAGES SHOW HEALING, BUT JUDGE NOT NEAR RETURN

SUPERTEAM VS. SUPERSTAR

PAGES 48-49

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